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John Mead's name removed from chapel for role in eugenics

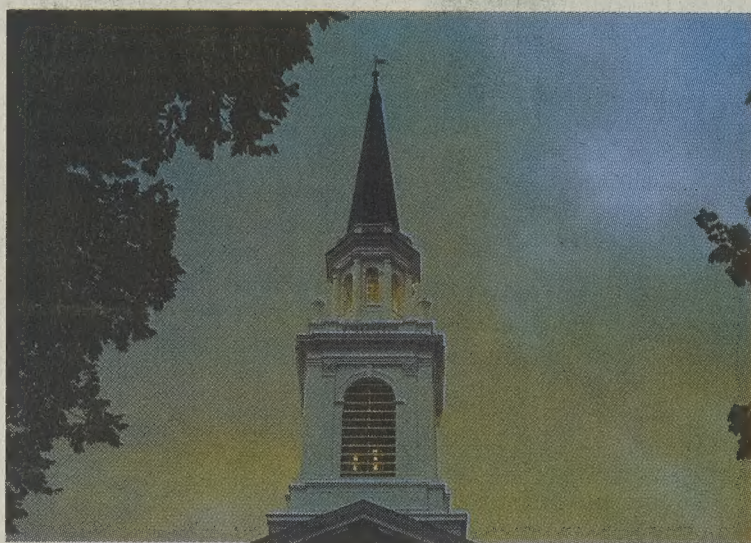
By IDEAL DOWLING
Editor at Large

In the early morning of Monday, Sept. 27, the stone slab engraved with "Mead Memorial Chapel" was removed from its place atop the entrance of the chapel. A few hours later, college President Laurie Patton and Chair of the Board of Trustees George Lee sent an email to the community explaining that chapel would no longer bear the name John Mead, Vermont governor from 1910 to 1912 and Middlebury class of 1864, due to his role in promoting eugenics policies in the state that led to the involuntary sterilization of an estimated 250 people.

In 1914, Mead and his wife Mary Madelia Sherman donated \$74,000, the equivalent of about \$2 million in today's money, for the creation of a new chapel. As the highest point on campus, the site of freshman convocation and a frequent symbol on college merchandise, the chapel has since become an iconic feature of Middlebury's landscape and branding. It will now be referred to as "The Middlebury Chapel" or just "the chapel."

Following unanimous decisions in the Vermont House and Senate in spring of 2021 to "sincerely apologize and express sorrow and regret" for the state's eugenics campaign, a working group composed of members from the Senior Leadership Group chosen by Patton, as well as student, faculty and alumni representatives, began working in May 2021 to develop a recommendation for the Board of Trustees on the question of removing Mead's name from the chapel.

The working group members included Provost Jeff Cason, Dean of Admissions Nicole Curvin, Chief Diversity Officer Miguel Fernandez, Vice President for Advancement Colleen Fitzpatrick, Vice President for Communications David Gibson, Alumni Association President Janine Hetherington '95, Director and Curator of Special Collections Rebekah Irwin, Student Government Association President Roni



ABIGAIL CHANG/THE MIDDLEBURY CAMPUS

The college removed the Mead name from the chapel entryway early Monday morning, revealing bricks underneath.

Lezama '22, Associate Professor of History Joyce Mao, Executive Vice President David Provost and General Counsel Hannah Ross, who acted as chair of the group.

The committee was gathered with the aim of including a variety of viewpoints. "Different members brought their own expertise and experience to these conversations," Ross said.

Over the course of a month, the committee reviewed a comprehensive and varied group of materials largely put together by Irwin. The first group of documents were Vermont Public Records, mainly from 1911 to 1914 but including some

published onward through the 1930s. One of the reports, submitted to the "Trustees of the Vermont State Hospital for the Insane," explicitly named Mead as an advocate of eugenics. In the report, a hospital official wrote, "Governor Mead has an idea in view, which in my opinion, should be endorsed by legal enactment, for the sterilization of these degenerates." The degenerates in question were identified as "dangerous imbeciles," particularly females during the "procreative period."

Other resources included the

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MIDDLEBURY SENDS STUDENTS TO SCHOOLS ABROAD DESPITE COVID-19 SAFETY CONCERNS

By IDEAL DOWLING
Editor at Large

When Piper Boss '23 reached out to Middlebury with concerns about studying abroad in Spain — then a country classified by the State Department as "Level 4: Do Not Travel" — she was informed by her abroad coordinator and Dean of Students Derek Doucet that she had two options: go to Madrid or take a leave of absence.

Concerned about the rise of Delta variant Covid-19 cases in late summer, a number of Middlebury students questioned the safety of their plans to study abroad for the Fall 2021 semester. When they inquired about withdrawing from their international programs and re-enrolling at Middlebury, they were informed that Middlebury's over-enrollment precluded the possibility of returning to the Vermont campus.

"My family and I were very nervous for me to be living in this large metropolitan area and interacting with local people, which is a large component of abroad programs because the goal is language immersion," Boss said.

Boss had planned to begin her semester in Madrid in mid-August. Covid-19 cases spiked in Spain toward the end of July, prompting the U.S. State Department to announce its Level 4: Do Not Travel classification on July 26, 2021.

According to Boss, the administration at the C.V. Starr School Abroad in Madrid informed the fall enrollees that the only way the program would be cancelled was if Spain closed its borders to international travel. Covid-19 vaccination, Boss also learned, was not a requirement for host families.

The vaccination rate in Spain has since increased, with 80% of the population having received at least one dose as of Sept. 21. Boss was placed with a vaccinated host family. Thus far, her experience has been positive, but she noted that her time could easily have been much more dangerous and felt that Middlebury did not seem to care about this possibility.

"Considering that Covid is still very much a problem in most of the world, it just seemed like there was a huge lack of forethought for international programs," Boss said.

Eliza King Freedman '23 and

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LOCAL

Middlebury businesses continue to face acute understaffing

By MANYA KULA
Contributing Writer

The town of Middlebury is no exception to the nationwide service sector labor shortage, and the widespread lack of workers has meant changes to the operations of popular restaurants in town. Local staples including Noonie's Deli and Middlebury Bagel & Deli have been forced to alter operations or cut hours. Other changes at Middlebury's restaurants include fewer menu offerings, increased wait times and a shift toward takeout only at certain establishments.

The desperation for staff is visible in town: Hannaford has posted hiring signs up and down the milk aisle, and Mr. Up's posted signage looking for cooks, waitstaff and dishwashers with "help wanted" followed by nine exclamation points.

In order to accommodate demand — especially with the reopening of dine-in services — Otter Creek Bakery is open for one to two hours fewer per day and only five days a week. In an interview with The Campus, Renee Leone, an employee at Otter

Creek, expressed that even with the tighter hours, members of the staff have been working double or extended shifts to compensate for the lack of staff.

"We're really trying to hire a lot of people," Leone said. "We're not looking to expand [hours] anytime soon until the labor shortage settles down."

The Arcadian — which shares a dining room with Haymaker Bun Co. — closed its doors indefinitely on Saturday, Sept. 18. The owners shared on the restaurant's Instagram that "the staffing crisis that has gripped our industry on every level was ultimately an insurmountable challenge to our operational goals."

Franchises in Middlebury have also been affected. The town's Dunkin' location has had to close early or limit their on-the-go service some days.

In addition to forcing operational changes, the challenges posed by the labor shortage have taken a mental and emotional toll on employees. Maranda Aunchman, a shift leader at the local Dunkin', described the strain of the staff shortage.

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News in Brief: Campus construction updates include new dorm site preparation

By CHARLIE KEOHANE
Editor at Large

This fall, Middlebury is buzzing with construction projects, including site preparation near Bicentennial Hall for a new first-year dorm and renovations of Warner Hall and Dana Auditorium.

The Board of Trustees approved funding for a conceptual design of construction documents for a new first-year dorm to replace Battell to get the project shovel-ready. This included granting approval to prepare the new construction site. Currently, the steam lines for central campus heating are being moved, according to David Provost, executive vice president for finance and administration.

"So all that [construction] is literally just to be in a position to move forward, which was also approved by the board as part of the capital project," Provost said.

The next steps for the new first-



ABIGAIL CHANG/THE MIDDLEBURY CAMPUS

A large area on the north side of campus is fenced off, where contractors have dug a pit to re-lay steam pipes.

year dorm project include acquiring state environmental permits for new construction, which according to Provost has not yet occurred, and identifying a funding source. Provost said that there are two considerations for funding — either fundraising or borrowing debt, which will be discussed at the board level.

The plans for the new dorm include features that Battell currently lacks such as seminar rooms, lounges and study rooms. Additionally, the building will be universally designed and accessible.

Because the two biggest variables in the construction of the new dorm — funding sources and building costs — have not yet been finalized, the college has not set a start date for construction on the new freshman dorm. Provost estimates the earliest possible date

for construction is next summer.

Other spaces on campus are also undergoing accessibility renovations. Munroe and Voter Hall were updated last year and last summer respectively, and Warner Hall and Dana Auditorium are currently under construction.

Dana will be completed by the new year, in time for J-Term, with updated and fully accessible features. Warner is undergoing a complete remodel and is scheduled to be finished next summer.

"The spirit of this strategy is constant improvement," Provost said.

In the next 5-7 years, the college also plans to build a new student center by Proctor and a new art museum where Battell is currently located.



COURTESY PHOTO

Signage in the Hannaford dairy aisle advertises hiring on every other door.

NEWS

Quarantining professors temporarily move classes online

By KATIE FUTTERMAN

Clifford Symposium puts a spotlight on environmental activism

By JULIA CLARICK

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LOCAL

Emerald Ash Borer threatens Vermont's ecosystems

By CHARLIE DEICHMAN-CASWELL

Under new ownership, Vt. Coffee Company remains committed to community-minded goals

By RACHEL LU

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OPINIONS

What happened to protecting the most vulnerable?

By ABIGAIL CHANG and ANNA METZLER

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By CHARLIE KEOHANE

Chinese and Luso-Hispanic studies bring "Shang Chi" to Middlebury

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SPORTS

Seven questions for Jack Pistorious '21.5, men's football

By JENNY LANGERMAN

Field hockey continues adding to their miraculous home win streak

By CHARLES CROUNSE

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Dining halls and parking lots stretched thin due to over-enrollment

By **SJ O'CONNOR**
Contributing Writer

At the end of morning classes at 12:15 p.m. every Tuesday and Thursday, students begin flooding into Proctor Dining Hall. The food line stretches beyond the doors and out to the Middlebury Chapel. In Ross, the line runs from the serving stations to the Ross Fireplace Lounge and wraps back on itself, leading out into the hall. As Middlebury faces the dual challenges of over-enrollment and an understaffing, aspects of student life from dining hall lines to parking tickets have demonstrated the ways the college's resources are stretched thin.

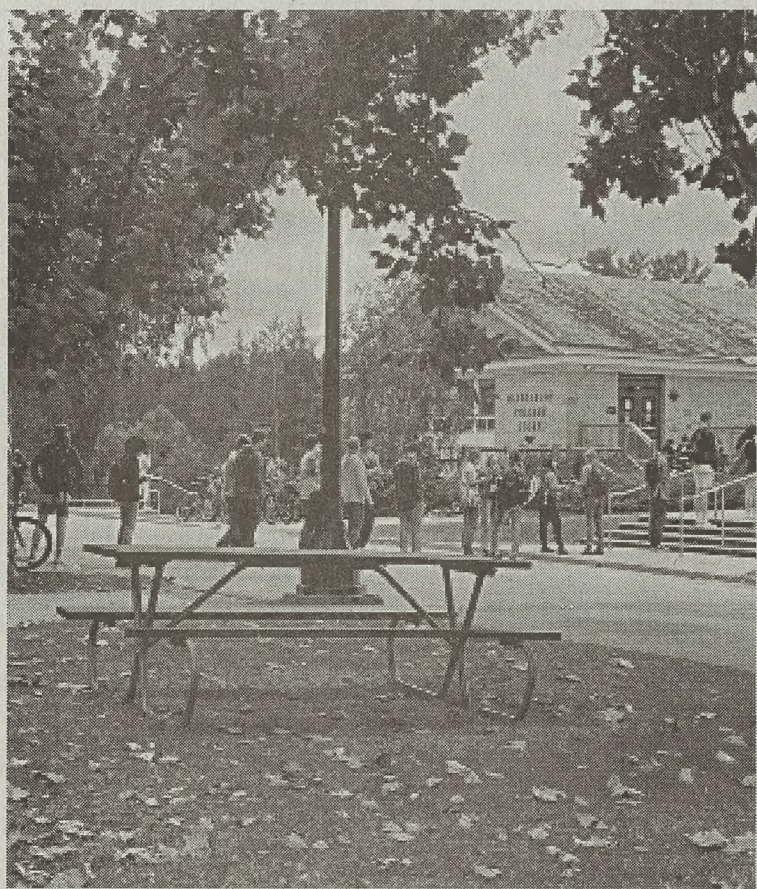
Dining halls have struggled in

cern about contracting Covid-19 from students in the dining halls, according to Gose.

"I don't remember a time I've ever seen the Proc line actually go outside. Ross sometimes got pretty crowded, but I've still never seen the lines get this long," Kristina Pompillio '23 said.

In an email sent from Dean of Students Derek Doucet on Sept. 23, students were encouraged to eat outside of the lunch rush — if possible.

"We all know that lunchtime on Tuesdays and Thursdays can be hectic," the email reads, "but there are some ways you can help to spread out traffic, help our friends in dining services, and enhance the dining experience for all. If you don't have a class that ends at 12:15 p.m. on Tuesdays



Students wait in line during the Proctor Dining Hall lunch rush, stretching all the way across Hepburn Road and to the Middlebury Chapel. Over-enrollment and understaffing have resulted in exceptionally long waits for food.

the first weeks of the semester, with more students than ever to feed and about half of the staff that they had before the start of the pandemic, according to Michael Gose, who has worked as a dining hall staff member at Middlebury for six years. The crowds that file into the dining hall during rush hour overwhelm the staff, who are working triple their normal workload. As students leave, dishes pile up, and it takes longer to clean them with fewer staff.

In 2019 — when the school was fully enrolled at approximately 2,500 students — the dining hall had one staff member at each station. Now, one person works about three stations at a time, taking on additional responsibilities with more than 300 extra stu-

Dining halls have struggled in the first weeks of the semester, with more students than ever to feed and about half of the staff that they had before the start of the pandemic...

dents to serve and clean up after. In addition, all dining hall staff are pulling more overtime hours and have to close stations earlier so they can leave closer to a normal time.

"Dealing with pandemic things [in the dining hall] changed a lot, and now we have to get back to normal, which is a challenge. With Covid, a lot of our staff have left and we have not been able to bring back the amount of workers we need to support us," Gose said.

The number of dining hall staff members has declined over the past year, as employees have left for other jobs or quit out of con-

and Thursdays (there are approximately 1,300 of you who don't), consider taking lunch early on those days. Or opt for Atwater, which is less heavily used than Proctor and Ross."

Along with long wait times in dining halls, students have struggled to find spaces in the college's parking lots — and have received tickets for parking on grass or in faculty lots as a last resort.

"I have not even used my car yet because I'm afraid I'll get a ticket if there isn't parking when I return. Middlebury needs to be more flexible or come up with a solution," Thea Joseph '22 said.

Public Safety has ticketed cars parked outside of their permitted lot, or on the grass, where many students have been parking when there are no available spots in the lots close to them.

First year students are required to park their cars in the Q Lot, beside the Mahaney Arts Center on the edge of campus, while sophomores, juniors, and seniors are allocated space in both the Q Lot and in other student lots around campus. The Q Lot — a fifteen minute walk from many upper-classman residences — often has spaces when the far closer R Lot and E Lots are full, but students returning to campus late at night when lots are full are reluctant to walk nearly a mile to their dorms.

"Parking is available on a first-come first-serve basis," PubSafe said in an email to The Campus. "There is adequate student parking on campus. It just is not always in the lot preferred by the vehicle operator."

Jonah Joseph '24 said it still felt like too many passes were distributed to students.

"It's very clear Middlebury needs more parking," Jonah said. "And if they don't provide it, they need to be more flexible."

Tickets range anywhere from \$10 to \$50 for parking in the wrong place. Students are also allowed to use most faculty and staff lots during the weekend, but must move their cars back to a student lot before Sunday at midnight.

QUARANTINING PROFESSORS TEMPORARILY MOVE CLASSES ONLINE

By **KATIE FUTTERMAN**
Staff Writer

Assistant Professor of Economics Andrew Fieldhouse woke up on Sept. 21, with congestion and a slight cough. He sent out an email to his class, moving the Tuesday discussion section online.

"Syllabus policy is that anyone with any cold-like symptoms shouldn't come to class, myself included," he said.

As most courses resume in-person instruction, cold-like symptoms, possible exposures and caution have pushed some professors to temporarily hold classes online while they quarantine.

"I think it was pretty easy to

freaked out from his experience, and realized that it's pretty serious getting it, even after you've been vaccinated, so that's why he switched back to online," she said.

Vergheze had been staying with his parents in Pennsylvania, when his 22-month-old daughter contracted Covid-19 in daycare. Even though Vergheze, his wife and his parents had all received the Covid-19 vaccine, they all contracted breakthrough cases of the virus.

"You can't really socially distance from a two year old," he said.

Vergheze was technically out of the quarantine period before classes had begun, but he wanted to obtain a PCR test to be safe before returning to in-person teaching. He started his classes online, and was ultimately back in

tomatic students can get tested through Parton health services, and the college offers a limited number of tests for asymptomatic students on Mondays.

When Fieldhouse fell ill, he called his primary care physician, who then called in a test at Porter hospital. Porter did not call back for a day, and Fieldhouse ultimately received a test at the last minute when another patient canceled their visit. Getting tested while asymptomatic at local centers was easier, Fieldhouse said.

According to Fieldhouse, Porter hospital is overwhelmed with the rise in Delta variant cases.

"It's unfortunate that there's not an availability for faculty and staff to get tested through Middlebury if they're symptomatic, and it's harder to get tested," he said.



move online. I mean, it's definitely not the most ideal environment for a discussion, but it was easy," said Clara Geci '22, a student in Fieldhouse's Macroeconomics of Depressions course.

Geci had not been in a class with Fieldhouse since the week before, and she knew that a number of students with back-to-school colds had tested negative.

After Ajay Vergheze, assistant professor of political science, was infected with the Covid-19 virus, he made the call to switch to recorded lectures for his comparative politics course for the remainder of the year.

Agnes Roche '24.5, a student in Vergheze's comparative politics course, said that on the first Zoom call, Vergheze informed his class of the switch to recorded lectures.

"I got the sense that he just got

the classroom the second week of classes.

Vergheze also remains apprehensive since his daughter has returned to daycare in Vermont, and he worries about another outbreak.

"Right after I got a breakthrough infection, just walking up the stairs was exhausting, and I remember thinking, how am I gonna teach if I still have these symptoms?" he said.

Vergheze questioned how older faculty would be able to teach if they had a breakthrough infection. He never got very sick, he said, but he still has a residual cough.

Last year, the college ran on-campus testing for faculty who were teaching in person, but this year, professors are expected to obtain testing locally. Symp-

On Thursday, Fieldhouse received a negative PCR result and moved his discussion section back to in-person with less than a half hour's notice.

"In some respects, this is a huge silver lining to the pandemic," Fieldhouse said. "If I was feeling really sick before, I just wouldn't come to class, whereas being able to just abruptly move to remote modality for just one day, it's pretty convenient."

Even though this semester offers more in-person classes and opportunities, students and professors are expected to remain flexible. Fieldhouse expects that there may be times in the semester in which many students are awaiting test results, and an online option will be necessary.

"We'll make that work," he

Middlebury sends students to schools abroad despite Covid-19 safety concerns

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Abby Schneiderhan '23 faced similar circumstances, having planned to study abroad in Rabat, Morocco.

Like Spain, Morocco was classified as a Level 4: Do Not Travel destination on Aug. 23, 2021. As of that date, 48% of the population had received at least one vaccine dose, and as of Sept. 22, 59.2% of the population had received at least one dose. Host families were not required to be vaccinated, and the country currently enforces a 9 p.m. curfew that has been in place since Aug. 2.

Despite serious concerns for physical and mental health when traveling to a Covid-19 hotspot with strict public safety measures in place, King Freedman felt she had no choice but to go ahead with her original plans — having received no assurance from the administration that she would be permitted to return to Middlebury.

"I just feel like I couldn't actually make an informed decision about whether or not it was safe to come [to Morocco] because Middlebury essentially took away any safety net we had throughout the process," she said.

Schneiderhan made what she called a "now-or-never" choice to travel to Rabat. The day after she left Canada, her point of departure, the country terminated flights to Morocco.

"One of the most stressful parts of this whole experience was deciding what to do when travel was so uncertain," Schneiderhan said. "Had I waited another day,

I wouldn't have even been able to get to Rabat, and I didn't have the fallback option of knowing that I would be able to go back to campus."

Ultimately, all students whose programs abroad were cancelled or who decided not to participate in those programs were able to return to campus this fall and received housing, according to Dean of Students Derek Doucet. The college's late summer purchase of Inn on the Green allowed for more available space at the Bread Loaf campus than expected earlier in the summer.

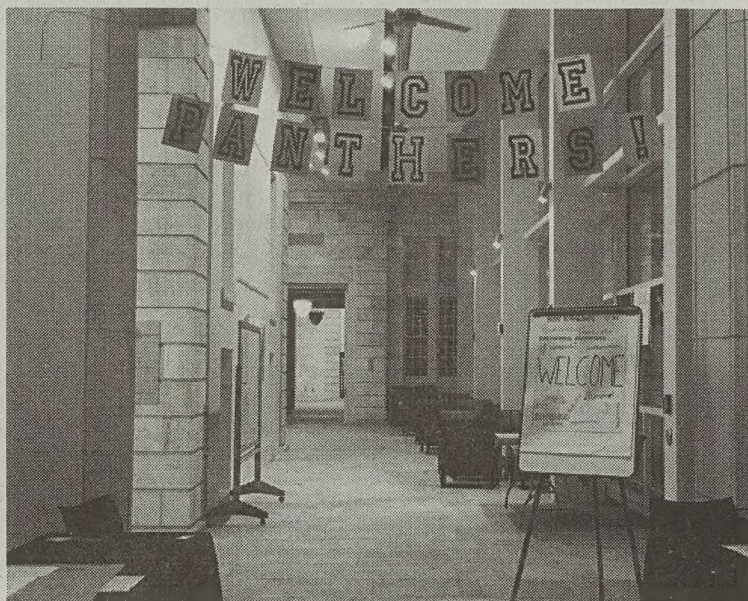
By the time the college created a waiting list for on-campus housing, Boss already had plane tickets to Spain departing just four days

later.

"I felt very ignored," she said. "They were clearly prioritizing their struggle with housing over the safety of their students who were going abroad."

Doucet told The Campus in an email that all college decisions to run study abroad programs were based on a review of pandemic conditions in each country.

"It sounds as though those students definitely had a difficult time working through some very difficult decisions," Doucet said. "As we continue to manage the effects of the pandemic, we have made every effort to provide students with opportunities to study on campus and abroad when feasible."



BENJY RENTON/THE MIDDLEBURY CAMPUS

Students apply to study abroad in February, but are typically able to re-enroll at Middlebury if they change their mind.

NEW HIRE ALBERTO SOTO BRINGS SOCIAL JUSTICE FOCUS TO ROLE AS DIRECTOR OF COUNSELING

By JULIA CLARICK
Contributing Writer

The Parton Center for Health and Wellness is welcoming Alberto Soto as the new Director of Counseling this year. At Middlebury, Soto hopes to implement more inclusive methods in his approach to mental health, bringing a personal background in trauma recovery and several years of experience at other colleges to his role.

Soto earned his PhD in counseling psychology from Brigham Young University, and most recently worked with health and wellness services as associate director of counseling at Swarthmore College and staff psychologist at Brown University.

Past personal experiences shaped Soto's counseling work and his priorities at Middlebury. In high school, he grappled with the death of his older brother, a tragedy that induced a lifelong battle with depressive symptoms. To help cope with the loss, Soto found a therapist in his home state of Idaho, but his experience was negative — and in sharp contrast to the way that he hopes Middlebury students interact with the school's mental health resources.

Soto said that this negative experience was in part due to a lack of cultural competence from his provider.

"[It] provided me with an understanding of the importance of having someone during our moments of suffering who can understand and align approaches with our cultural world view," Soto said in an email to The Campus.

Soto has since approached counseling by focusing on the connections between social justice and mental health.

"To silo healing to a room and not consider the broader systemic dynamic is to ignore the oppression and injustices that impact our overall mental health," Soto said.

At Middlebury, Soto's role will include supervising counseling staff and creating policies that

guide the college's mental health services. He believes his progressive and innovative approach to work at the Center for Health and Wellness is crucial to transforming resources into something accessible and impactful for students seeking any kind of counseling.

Soto was excited to join Middlebury because of the college's openness to experimenting with alternate models of counseling such as the Flexible Care Model, an approach to mental health on college campuses that provides fast access and more customized options for treatment. Soto hopes to expand such transformative and innovative services at Middlebury.

"The body and mind cannot be healed solely by self-care and focusing on surviving," Soto said. "At some point we must address and identify the source of all our psychic suffering, which is whiteness, heteronormativity, patriarchal systems, etc."

Soto emphasized that healing must be placed in the broader context of systemic structures, which is where social justice ties in.

These steps will include increased and more inclusive outreach and mental health services for a diverse student population, as well as questioning Eurocentric ideas surrounding mental health. He also looks to challenge the historically-dominant whiteness in the Middlebury community in order to create a more open environment for students.

President Laurie Patton also announced the appointment of Barbara McCall as the executive director of the Center for Health and Wellness on June 23. McCall previously oversaw health and wellness education at Middlebury. Patton's announcement states that McCall has put an emphasis on going forward with a focus on "inclusive, collaborative, and integrated care for all Middlebury students."

With new leadership from both Soto and McCall, the Center for Health and Wellness plans to move toward a more meaningful and inclusive approach for supporting students' mental health on campus.

Clifford Symposium puts a spotlight on environmental activism



TONY SJODIN/THE MIDDLEBURY CAMPUS

A poster outside Proctor Dining Hall advertizes the Clifford Symposium.

By CLAIRE GREENBURGER
Contributing Writer

Bill McKibben, Schumann distinguished scholar at Middlebury, renowned environmentalist and co-founder of 350.org — the first global climate campaign of its kind — was joined by his 350.org co-founders to kick off this year's Clifford Symposium.

The Clifford Symposium occurs each year at the beginning of the fall semester, bringing scholars, faculty and students together around a relevant theme. It is named for former Professor of History Emeritus Nicholas R. Clifford, who taught at the college from 1966 to 1993.

This year's symposium, titled "Radical Implications: Facing a Planetary Emergency," featured talks from experts, faculty and students that confronted questions about how to navigate a world actively undergoing a climate crisis.

The event featured several keynote speakers, including adrienne maree brown, whose works, such as "Pleasure Activism: the politics of feeling good" and "We Will Not Cancel Us," ask questions about transformative justice, using emotional empowerment as an organizing principle and radical imagination about the future.

Sarah Jacquette Ray, another keynote speaker, spoke about climate anxiety and other powerful emotions sparked by climate change — why people feel them,

how to overcome them and what can be done to empower oneself.

Other keynote speakers included Jane McAlevey, Mary Annaïse Heglar and Julian Brave NoiseCat. Faculty and students also presented on the impact of the climate crisis on the academic experience.

Giving the first talk of the symposium, Bill McKibben and other 350.org founders, including May Boeve '06, Jeremy Osborn '06, Phil Aroneanu '06, Kelly Blynn '07, Jon Warnow '06, Will Bates '06 and Jamie Henn '07, gave advice on how to balance activism and being a college student.

They reminisced about the early days of the organization — before climate justice was a central focus at Middlebury or considered an issue deserving of international attention. The project originated from Professor of Economics and Environmental Studies Jon Isham's J-Term course about the threat of the climate crisis.

Today, climate activism is a robust part of the Middlebury community, with student organizations like the Sunday Night Environmental Group (SNEG) and a Sunrise chapter boasting large memberships, among numerous other student environmental groups.

The panel suggested that a reassessment of priorities might be in order for Middlebury students to address the climate crisis. According to the founders, Middlebury provides students with incredible resources, but the potential for change lies in how the students choose to leverage those resources

and the prestige of a Middlebury degree.

"Stay in school — lower your GPA," Osborn said.

Other student questions centered around making a life for oneself during an ongoing global crisis. McKibben and the other panelists described the fight for justice as unrelenting and the strength to persevere as collective rather than individual. For the 350.org founders, Middlebury is a place with unmatched opportunities for young people to build those necessary relationships.

Employment in climate-related fields — spanning from scientific research to media to politics — are numerous and more available to Middlebury alumni today than when the 350.org founders graduated, creating greater opportunities for young people to make fighting climate change a part of their futures.

"[Today,] the climate movement is a lot larger, it's a lot more diverse, and it pays a lot better than it used to," said Aroneanu.

Bill McKibben and the 350.org founders expressed to the audience that there are no limits in what the community can accomplish as Middlebury students. They urged students to look to opportunities like J-Term to provide them with the necessary time and focus for getting involved in climate activism. McKibben also urged students to look outside of Middlebury.

Most talks are available as recordings to view on the Clifford Symposium website.

John Mead's name removed from chapel for role in eugenics

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scholarship of independent historians Mercedes de Guardiola, Kevin Dann and Nancy Gallagher, an online archive called "Vermont Eugenics: A Documentary History," Vermont newspapers from the early 20th century, college archival records, college Trustee minutes, correspondence between John Mead and Middlebury President John Thomas, College Advancement records and documents in the Records of the Office of the Governor at the State Historical Society in Middlesex, VT, according to Irwin.

Irwin further noted that the group considered experiences of other schools in similar situations, such as the efforts of the "Yale University Committee to Establish Principles on Renaming." This document also guided the University of Vermont's renaming of the Bailey Howe Library. Other schools that have grappled with the symbolism of building names, mascots and campus symbols include Bryn Mawr College, the University of Richmond, Princeton University and Georgetown University.

Of all the information available, particularly influential was the State Legislature's background research, witnesses and documentation around Bill J.R.H.2. This Joint Resolution points directly to a 1912 bill put forward by Governor Mead, which was passed by the Vermont General Assembly but then vetoed by Governor Allen M. Fletcher due to constitutional concerns, that led "directly to Vermont state agencies and institutions adopting policies and procedures that carried out 'the

intent of the vetoed legislation and the beliefs of the eugenics movement," wrote Irwin in an email to The Campus. "The state legislature itself drew that painful line back to Mead's proposed legislation," she continued.

After a careful review of these materials, the group made its recommendation to remove Mead's name in June 2021. The Board of Trustees made its decision unanimously by late August.

The email announcement stressed the working group's concerted efforts to recognize the complexities involved in renaming: "We want to stress up front that this was a process involving deep reflection and discussion. No issue like this should be undertaken lightly or often," it read.

For Lezama, this comprehensive process led to a clear conclusion. "People will praise academia for being a space to have young students deliberate hard topics, but as we actually consider the individual lives of the students that compose Middlebury, it's also about providing equitable spaces for these students, especially BIPOC and low-income students, to thrive. There is no 'maybe we should hear them out' when it comes to a subject like eugenics that is terribly harmful and has very serious impacts on the well-being of students," he said.

As the only student in the group, Lezama's main goal was to ensure that the name change itself, though symbolic and powerful, is not the end of the college's efforts to support students from historically marginalized communities. "This is about moving forward and actively educating ourselves on harm that is done to members of our community, past or present. With

these actions, Middlebury has an opportunity to differentiate itself from the rest of academia by actively taking a stance against ideals that harm its students. A space representing eugenics has no place on our campus."

However, not everyone in the Middlebury community shares Lezama's conviction that the removal of Mead's name was the proper choice. James Douglas '72, a former governor of Vermont and executive in residence at the college, expressed a number of reasons he was unhappy with the decision. The first regarded the process itself: "I was shocked to see the lack of transparency. This was done by a secret committee. The [slab's removal] was done under the cover of darkness. I don't understand that mentality, when in other endeavors the college has been open and inclusive," he said.

According to Ross, the early morning removal of the slab was due to the Facilities Department's schedule, which begins its workday at 7 a.m.

Next, Douglas explained why he does not feel the removal of Mead's name is a fair representation of Mead's career. "I certainly don't condone the study of or implementation of a eugenics program, but those were different times. There was a great deal of support for eugenics among people with distinguished careers, including Teddy Roosevelt, Margaret Sanger, W.E.B. Du Bois and Helen Keller. So, I think it's unfair to apply a 21st century lens to another era in our history," he said.

Douglas also noted that the removal announcement ignores many other positive aspects of Mead's career, including his support for progressive child labor

laws, his creation of a school of agriculture that is now Vermont Technical College, his doubling of highway funding and his efforts to reform campaign finance. "I really believe that someone's legacy should be determined by the entirety of his or her life, not by comments that are later unfortunate. No one is perfect, especially with the hindsight of history," Douglas said.

Taking issue with the college's claim that the name removal does not amount to an erasure of history, Douglas replied, "Of course they are. One important element of history is that he gave the money, and his name has been on it for more than a century. I think it would be appropriate to return the money [for the chapel] and other money that he gave to the college."

According to the administration, Mead's financial gift to the college was not conditional upon his name being put on the building, so the college is not obligated to return the gift to the Mead family.

Lastly, Douglas was perplexed as to why the action was taken when the vast majority of students were likely unaware of Mead's history and connection to eugenics. Nor does he believe the Vermont legislature's formal apology necessitated the name removal. "I don't think [the apology] leads to this cancellation of the legacy of the philanthropy of Governor Mead. The college has made a serious mistake," he said.

Though there have been no previous calls for the removal of Mead's name by Middlebury community members, Irwin noted that more and more colleges and universities across the country are beginning to engage in honest debates and conversations about what and

who they choose to commemorate. "It's about how those choices express our values," she said.

Thinking of the broader implications of the decision, Douglas commented, "There is a growing attitude in academia of wokeness and political correctness. We all need to take a deep breath. A college campus is the kind of place we ought to be able to have these discussions, even uncomfortable decisions. This decision runs counter to the purpose of higher education."

Reiterating the official announcement, Ross stated, "This is not about erasing history, but just the opposite — engaging with it so we can learn from it. Our educational mission is at the center of all these deliberations."

The Educational Task Force is currently planning to work with a variety of departments and groups on campus to develop recommendations on how to acknowledge and educate about the decision to first honor a member of this community and then remove that honor, according to Ross. "Our educational efforts might include signage, architectural installations and public art — with the goal of encouraging constructive dialogue and debate around not only the issue of the chapel name but also its wider implications as a complex issue of our time," she said.

As of now, there are no plans to actively enforce the new name or obligate employees to refrain from referring to the chapel as Mead Chapel, according to Ross. The Educational Task Force may consider a publicity campaign to promote a new name if one is chosen for the chapel, but such a campaign is not part of the administration's current plans.

Henry Sheldon Museum lecture series to shed light on untold history

By BECCA AMEN & JULIA PEPPER

Senior Local Editor & Local Editor

In October, as part of a wider movement among museums to address overlooked or unexamined historical narratives and decolonize their exhibits, the Henry Sheldon Museum will launch its monthly virtual lecture series titled “The Elephant in the Room.” The talks, which are funded by the grant-making body called the Vermont Humanities Council, will be delivered by a group of scholars and curators who are familiar with the untold stories behind the museum’s objects.

The museum’s objective of bringing suppressed historical narratives to the surface is particularly personal because of the relatively egalitarian goals of its founder, Henry Sheldon. The year 2021 marks his 200th birthday, an event that has prompted reflection on the museum’s current goals.

“Sheldon had an interesting position in terms of privilege and class inside museums: he was a collector in the 19th century ... but he didn’t have the wealth of the Rockefellers or the Fricks,” Taylor Rossini ’20, a collections associate and grant writer at the museum who contributed to pitching and developing this series, said.

To combat his “outsider” status and the financial constraints that he faced, Sheldon turned his attention to more quotidian artifacts. Rather than importing ceramics from Europe, for example, Sheldon would collect everything around him, including mundane things that others didn’t think were worth saving, like local newspapers or ticket stubs.

Because of Henry Sheldon’s disposition, the museum he founded now has a nearly encyclopedic collection of Middlebury and the surrounding areas in the 19th century.

“This year, we’ve been thinking about how our museum plays into this larger conversation about how museums are these elite cultures, these repositories of incredibly valuable objects, and how our museum doesn’t fit into that mold,” Rossini said. “That’s not something that’s been made very clear.”

Still, despite the museum’s history of preserving artifacts of everyday life, it is still subject to the challenges of bias and prejudice that many museums are grappling

with today. “The Elephant in the Room” is an attempt to push that acknowledgment of the gaps in the Sheldon’s collection further. The January talk, for example, will address representation in 19th-century photography. Photographs of people of color in the museum’s collection have previously been left unlabeled, without much investigation into the identities of the individuals depicted in them.

Rossini acknowledged that this is a sign of Sheldon’s own prejudices.

“As egalitarian as we like to make Henry out to be, he was not interested in the stories of non-white, non-Christian contemporaries of his,” Rossini said. “So, we do have big holes in our collection where we have objects that give us a touchstone to tell these stories, but we don’t have information surrounding them to craft these stories.”

The main goal of “The Elephant in the Room” series will then be to address and acquire new approaches to understanding these objects that have gone uncontextualized, as the Sheldon works to decolonize its collections and push conversations on race, gender, class, intersectionality and equity forward.

“We’re hoping that these talks will give us some ideas, inspiration and hopefully, some new approaches that we can apply to our collection,” Rossini said.

The values at the forefront of the “Elephant in the Room” series are ideas growing in importance at museums across America. Museums are working to create meaningful content for the 21st century that serves the people who visit rather than the objects displayed.

“I think the goal with museums and among museum professionals is to stray as far as we can from this idea of museums being the ivory tower on the hill,” Rossini said.

Though this movement is spreading worldwide, its impact is also visible in another museum close to home. Works in the Middlebury College Museum of Art were recently reorganized to reflect thematic arrangement rather than region- or chronology-based design.

Rossini wrote and pitched the grant for the Sheldon Museum series alongside Eva Garcelon-Hart, a research center archivist at the Sheldon and the originator of the series.

“For the last few years many museums, archives and other cultural heritage institutions have been questioning their collecting and curatorial practices in response to social pressures that call and demand broader inclusion, di-

opportunity to reflect on our current practices to meet the needs and expectations of our increasingly diverse communities.”

After the pandemic hit, all of the museum’s exhibits were adapted to online formats, including

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versity and equity,” Garcelon-Hart wrote in an email to The Campus. “When I was working on exhibits and programming to commemorate [Sheldon’s 200th birthday], I realized that it may be a perfect

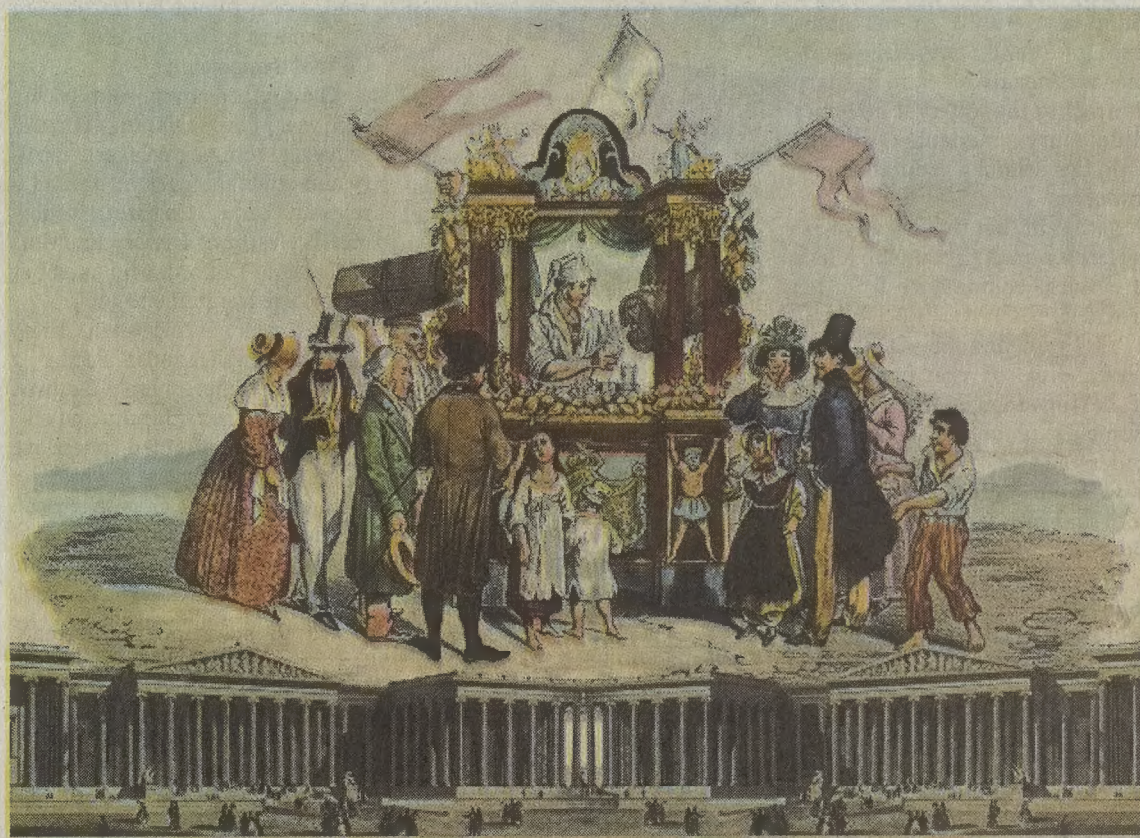
webpages featuring photographs and video content. Rossini acknowledged that the switch made it more difficult for the museum’s core audience — namely, older townspeople — to access museum content.

Still, she remains optimistic about transitioning to offering some museum content online for the foreseeable future.

“A challenge has always been to broaden our audience as much as possible, and moving online did help with that. Younger folks, younger families, who are more comfortable with virtual content made their way to us and have stuck with us now, either through visitation or becoming members, even as we’ve reopened,” Rossini said.

As of July 2021, the museum has reopened for visitation, but because the series — as part of its design to involve as many people in the conversation as possible — convenes speakers from many different locations, the talks will all be held online.

The first lecture in the series, “Living with Death,” is about how to create meaning in a time of loss. The lecture will be on Wednesday, Oct. 6, at 7 p.m., and is open to all. It will be a conversation between the artist and writer Dario Robleto, and Assistant Professor of American Studies Ellery Foutch from the college. More information can be found at www.henrysheldonmuseum.org/events.



COURTESY PHOTO

This 2021 digital collage by Andy Warhol Foundation for the Visual Arts Curatorial Fellow Ric Kasini Kadour, titled “Museums of the Future,” will be featured in Kadour’s upcoming Apr. 13 lecture “21st Century Public Squares: When Art Meets History.”

Middlebury businesses continue to face acute understaffing

Continued from Page 1

“It’s really stressful not having people in or people quitting,” Aunchman said. “It’s affecting everybody.”

Middlebury Bagel & Deli has been busier than ever before, but struggling to fill positions has presented the business with an unprecedented challenge. In the past, the owners seldom needed to advertise when looking to hire new employees, and now, they are turning to Facebook, advertising in the storefront and relying on word of mouth in the small town community.

“Mentally, it’s hard, and obviously not having the right amount of people for certain days ... it’s affected us. It’s affected all of them,” Justin Rubright, an owner of Middlebury Bagel & Deli, said. “It’s good to have the two days off that we have because we have the strongest crew that we could have here every other day the five days that we’re open.”

According to the Addison Independent, the owners of Noonie’s Deli have received a number of applications in the past year, but out of those applicants, only a few have shown up to undergo the interview process.

Now, with many employees from the summer returning to high school or college, hiring efforts have strengthened. Some local businesses hope that Middlebury College students will be able to pad the local workforce. Last Monday, the college — in collaboration with the Better Middlebury Partnership — put on a job fair advertising positions in town. But the college faces its own

critical labor shortages, with dining halls and facilities experiencing perhaps the most perceptible effects of understaffing.

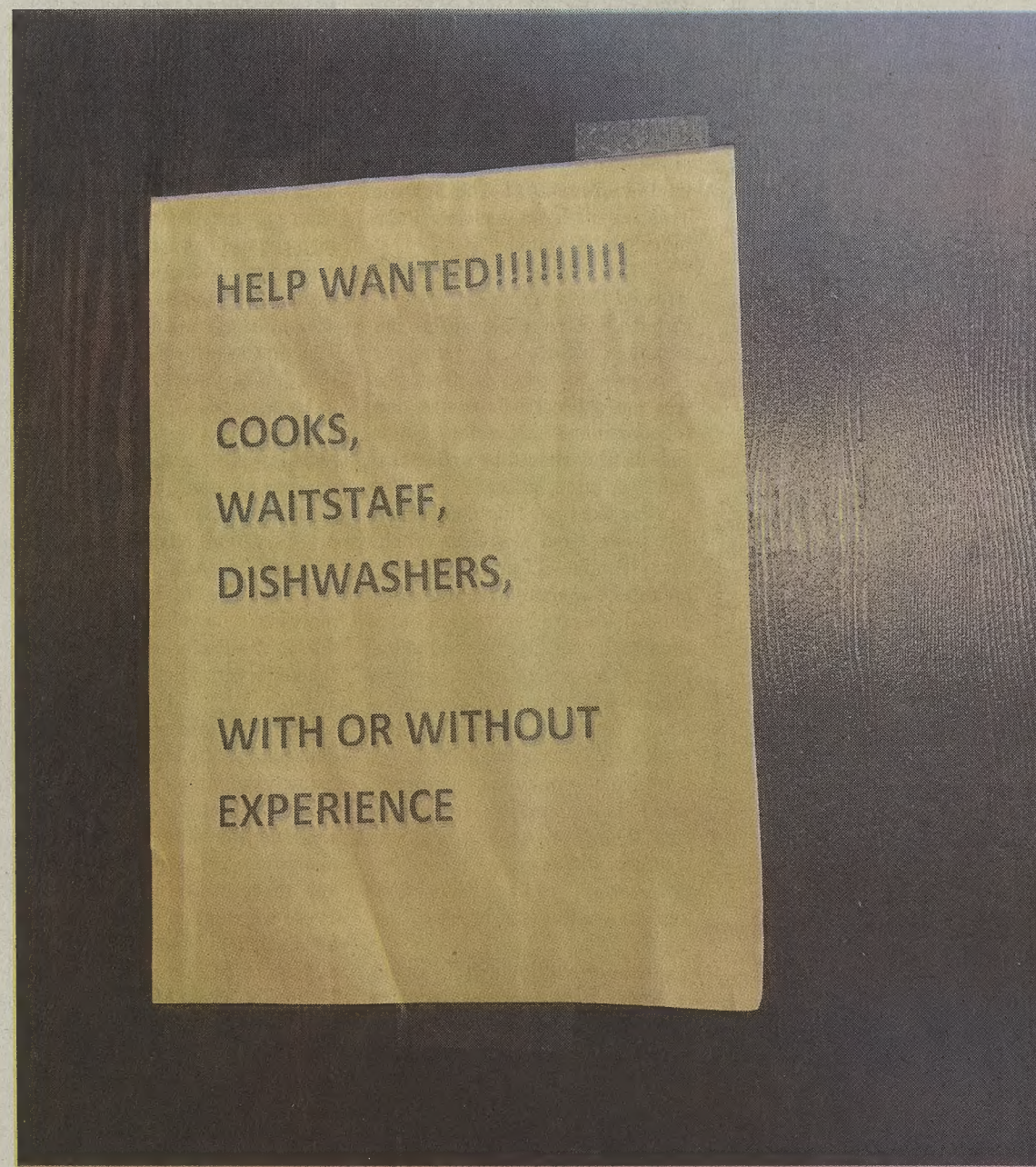
In an interview for Business Insider, economist Dante DeAntonio said that the labor shortage across the U.S. is likely to persist.

“The labor shortages will start to abate in September and this fall, but it’s not going to be an immediate fix,” DeAntonio said. “This could well play out over two, three years.”

Economists largely attribute the labor shortage to a mismatch between the roles offered by employers and potential employees looking to fill those roles. In some businesses across the U.S., employers are not willing or able to offer the wage that workers are demanding, or the employers might be eliminating applicants through automatic screening software, such as resume screeners that reject potential employees based on the inclusion of certain words on their resumes.

In addition, cases are still on the rise throughout the country, including Vermont, which could deter people from returning to jobs that put them at risk for Covid-19. Cases have been on the rise in Vermont since Labor Day Weekend, with 82 new cases reported on the state’s Covid-19 dashboard on Sept. 28. Childcare also continues to be an issue for many, as parents are either unwilling to send their children to childcare centers or centers remain closed.

While it is unclear exactly what is causing the labor shortage in Middlebury, national trends indicate that it could be a problem that persists for years to come.



RILEY BOARD/THE MIDDLEBURY CAMPUS

A poster at Mr. Up’s advertises a call for cooks, waitstaff and dishwashers.

Emerald Ash Borer threatens Vermont's ecosystem and landscape

By CHARLIE DEICHMAN-CASWELL
Photo Editor

It's like walking around a museum, looking at the few trees that survive."

Jay Leshinsky, Middlebury's first Garden Advisor, stands rooted to the lush Knoll on which he worked for 15 years. Throughout his time in the garden and long before, Middlebury's ash trees have stood firmly and proudly along the Vermont hillside. Now, they are under threat of extinction. The culprit? The Emerald Ash Borer (commonly known as "EAB"), an invasive, deceptively beautiful green beetle that has, over the course of almost 20 years, extirpated America's ash trees from much of the country.

The ash is one of the most common large trees in the northeastern United States. They can grow up to 115 feet tall (35 meters) and can live for up to 200 years, but you might know them from their "helicopter" seeds that spin their way to the ground each fall. The most common species in eastern Vermont is the White Ash; these trees tower over our campus and the town of Middlebury. They provide shade for students lounging outside of Davis, nesting sites for birds, which feed upon their fallen seeds, and respite for our campus' beloved grey squirrels.

In a matter of years, these giants may be dead or entirely erased from Middlebury's landscape.

The Emerald Ash Borer enters ash trees from openings in their bark and eats the inner tissues of the tree, destroying its channels for transporting water and nutrients. In less than four years, even the oldest and largest ash will die.

The beetle affects all eighteen US-native species of ash, as well as the White Fringe tree. It was first discovered in Detroit in 2001 and has since spread across the entirety of eastern North America, wiping out massive ash populations. Vermont is one of America's last ash localities to be affected by EAB, the current range having spread through ten confirmed counties, including Addison.

Emmet Schmehling '24 remembers finding afflicted ash branches in the woods around his childhood home in Caledonia, Michigan. Carved into each was a unique pattern of lines, bored into the wood by the vandal like a calling card.

"I always thought that they were some artifact from people long ago or a carving from somebody, not realizing what it actually was," Schmehling said.

The state of Vermont is known to have been monitoring traps for EAB since 2013, according to Ginger Nickerson of the Vermont Urban and Community Forestry Program, an organization that works in conjunction with the University of Vermont and the local governments to educate the public about the state's forests. EAB was first detected in central Vermont in December of 2018, and the state has since deployed several measures for monitoring the invasive pest. Most notably, condensed groups of ash trees have been inoculated against the beetle using an injected pesticide. This method, while effective, is not very feasible or practical when applied to larger ash stands.

Additionally, state officials have released parasitoid wasps in specified areas, which target EAB larvae. The wasps are part of a larger effort to combat the beetle using biocontrol, or the introduction of natu-



CHARLIE DEICHMAN-CASWELL/THE MIDDLEBURY CAMPUS

The college's campus contains around 200 to 300 ash trees, of which around 40 are innoculated from the Emerald Ash Borer.

ral predators to eliminate a known pest. Although the EAB is not expected to be completely eradicated, the release of these wasps into more intensely affected areas has been effective in slowing its spread.

The crisis facing Middlebury's ash trees is not a unique event. In particular, it is reminiscent of the

The Emerald Ash Borer (commonly known as "EAB") is an invasive, deceptively beautiful green beetle that has, over the course of almost 20 years, extirpated America's ash trees from much of the country.

American Chestnut blight, which all but eradicated the "Redwoods of the East" in the early 1900s, and the Dutch Elm disease which continues to threaten America's elms. Twenty-eight such elms stand firmly across Middlebury's campus, maintained through regular inoculations. Part of Vermont's, and possibly the East Coast's, largest ongoing collection of old elms, some are over 90 feet tall and over 150 years old. There is no telling whether the methods used to protect the elms will prove to be effective in shielding our ash trees, but nonetheless efforts are being made to save these great environmental landmarks.

Tim Parsons points excitedly around campus from where he stands, outside McCullough Plaza.

"There's one there... one there... a

big one there," he said.

Parsons has spearheaded Middlebury's efforts against EAB since it first threatened campus 10 years ago. In the meantime, he has worked alongside the college and its students to map Middlebury's ash population, marking those in "high risk" areas. If an ash tree is more than 25% dead, it becomes entirely unpredictable. It can break or fall over, so Parsons and his crew have no choice but to remove it. This is a major difference between ash and elm, Parsons explained. Elm is a strongwood, so it can be dead and stand for ten or twenty years without falling, whereas ash cannot be trusted to stay upright. Further, Parsons explained, elms are capable of reproducing long before they are susceptible to Dutch Elm disease, so we'll always have our elms. On the other hand, Parsons said that "EAB will kill an ash before it reaches a reproductive age, so we could very likely lose all of them."

As bleak as this situation may seem, Middlebury does not plan to let its ash trees die without a fight.

"We have been talking about this for about 10 years now," Parsons said, "About eight or nine years ago, the state of Vermont did a test plan for towns to use as a template to start to prepare for EAB. We took the draft of this plan and used it for the town of Middlebury, and about two years later, we used that same plan for our school."

Of the two or three hundred ash trees on Middlebury's campus, Parsons has inoculated 40 with a pesticide that kills EAB and prevents decay.

"For those forty trees, from what I've read it's been really effective," he said. "I do 20 trees each year and the inoculation lasts for two years, so I alternate. But those 20 trees take two, three, four days to do all of the injections, so to do all two or three hundred campus trees would just be huge. We just don't have the resources to save all of them."

A quick search of go/EAB will

land you on a page with detailed maps and information about EAB and Middlebury's ash trees. However, it hasn't been updated in years.

"Like the rest of the school, we're shorthanded in our department," Parsons explained.

He remains the only person on campus with the pesticide license needed to inoculate the trees. Thinking ahead, Parsons imagines using the wood salvaged from downed ash trees as fuel for the school's biomass

"When ash dies, I don't know if folks are prepared for what it will look like."

plant, acknowledging that infested wood will be unusable and would have no commercial value.

"People don't realize how much space these trees take up, so we need to plan ahead before they become a problem," he said.

To this end, the Town of Middlebury recently received a grant from the state of Vermont to be used for the removal of ash trees and their replacement with 28 to 35 trees of various species.

"When ash dies, I don't know if folks are prepared for what it will look like."

A simple glance up at the Green Mountains on a fall day reveals a forest ablaze with a palette of reds and oranges, yellows and greens. In a couple of years, ten to fifteen percent of those trees will be grey, un-blossoming ghosts. We are in the calm before a violent storm that will permanently alter Vermont's landscape, and the hills will be speck-

led with grey before long. On our own campus, ashes tend to stand in clusters, so although they account for only ten percent of our trees, their disappearance will seem much worse.

"I'm really scared about what might come into the holes that the ash will leave," Parsons said. "In an ideal world, all of those holes will fill in with oak or sugar maple, or nice high-value trees. My fear is that all of these holes will get choked out by invasive plants and trees that you don't want, and will spread from there."

There is no saying exactly what will happen or how campus will respond to the arrival of the Emerald Ash Borer, but Parsons, backed by an abundance of passionate students, is determined to play his cards right.

"I've been yelling about this for years now. That's my big takeaway: regardless of where I am on campus, I can point to an ash tree. It will have to come down," he said.

Thanks to important work from people like Tim Parsons, Ginger Nickerson of the Vermont Urban and Community Forestry Program at UVM, and the Middlebury Tree Committee, Middlebury is prepared for the worst. For the protection and preservation of Middlebury's Ash trees, it is necessary to detect the pest as soon as possible. Signs of EAB infestation include the emergence of adult green beetles in late May to early June, split bark, S-shaped tunnels behind the outer bark, D-shaped exit holes (about 1/8 inch wide) on the bark surface, woodpecker damage (often called "flecking"), dead top branches, and leafy offshoots from the lower trunk of the tree (per Town of Middlebury).

If signs of infestation can be seen, it's advised to take photos and report the site to Vermont Invasives (VTInvasives.com). To prevent the spread of EAB, the state of Vermont advises against the transportation of firewood and infested ash wood. For



CHARLIE DEICHMAN-CASWELL/THE MIDDLEBURY CAMPUS



CHARLIE DEICHMAN-CASWELL/THE MIDDLEBURY CAMPUS

Ash trees can grow up to 115 feet tall and can live for up to 200 years, with the most common species of ash tree in Vermont being the White Ash.

The Emerald Ash Borer is a green beetle that eats the inner tissues of the tree, destroying its channels for transporting water and nutrients.

Four local coffee spots that will satisfy your caffeine cravings



OLIVIA MUELLER/THE MIDDLEBURY CAMPUS

Royal Oak Coffee, just a mile away from campus, is Middlebury's best bet for seasonal latte flavors and year round quality taste.

By OLIVIA MUELLER
Arts & Culture Editor

Midd Kids are big fans of coffee. Some brew it in their rooms or even roast their own coffee beans while others habitually head into town for a latte. Just a few weeks into the semester, you can always find students stationed in the college's Crossroads Cafe or grabbing a second or third cup from the dining hall dispensers as they tackle their assignments.

Taking the time to relax over coffee might seem paradoxical, but venturing off-campus in search of caffeination can actually offer a much-needed break from the daily grind.

Fortunately, there is a wide variety of coffee shops in the Middlebury area that are well worth checking out. And if students can't bring themselves to part with their schoolwork, studying at a cafe offers a great change of scenery.

Among the dozens of coffee options in the area, here are four great spots to check out.

Royal Oak Coffee Middlebury

In the Venn diagram of third wave coffee snobs and Starbucks addicts, Royal Oak exists in the beautiful and elusive overlap that satisfies both. Located right in Middlebury, Royal Oak is about a mile away from campus on Seymour Street, and is beloved by many students. Co-owned by husband-and-wife team Matt and Aless Delia-Lobo, Royal Oak packs incredible quality into every drink they serve. Their latte flavors are

unique and delicious. Cardamom vanilla and maple lattes are always on the menu, along with a rotating seasonal flavor. Whether you care deeply about the origin and processing of your beans or simply enjoy the pretty latte art, the cafe is the perfect place to try something new. Their shaken maple latte tastes like pure Vermont.

Royal Oak's sister shop, Lost Monarch, is located at the Stone Mill Public Market. If the weather permits, studying over a matcha latte on their terrace seating area is a great way to focus and relax.

Olivia's recommendation: hot cardamom vanilla latte with oat milk



Vergennes Laundry Vergennes

Vergennes Laundry strikes a perfect balance between authentic and upscale. Named for the laundromat that once operated out of the same storefront, Vergennes Laundry is about twenty minutes from campus in the center of Vergennes' downtown.

The highlight of Vergennes Laundry is their lattes. They are some of the creamiest and most well-balanced around. The coffee shop's aesthetic is simultaneously minimalist and rustic, and its neutral color scheme and natural light are instantly relaxing. Local products and fresh produce dot the shelves, and the smell of freshly baked baguettes wafts through the room.

Step up to the counter and order a drink (and maybe something tempting from the pastry case as well), and then head outside to sit and sip at one of the cheerful orange tables along Main Street.

Olivia's recommendation: iced oat milk latte

Bristol Cliffs Café Bristol

As the name suggests, Bristol Cliffs Cafe is located in downtown Bristol, making it a perfect pit stop on the way back from a cliff jumping trip at Bristol Falls.

The interior is cozy, with warm wood tables and sunlight streaming in through the front windows, and an unpretentious menu contains all the classic cafe staples you might want.

The coffee alone is decent, but not mind-blowing; Bristol Cliffs is definitely more of a spot to grab a meal. Think a gooey bacon egg and cheese wrapped in tin foil, moist baked goods or Sunday brunch. But if you're simply looking for a quick and basic iced coffee, they've got you covered.

Olivia's recommendation: iced coffee with almond milk

Brio Coffeeworks Burlington

Brio Coffeeworks is a female-owned coffee shop just a few



OLIVIA MUELLER/THE MIDDLEBURY CAMPUS

In addition to coffee, Vergennes Laundry is a great spot to grab a pastry or a fresh-baked baguette.

minutes walk away from Burlington's Church Street.

The interior is calming, with polished concrete floors and plants dotting the floor — definitely a little hipster. The baristas are knowledgeable and friendly, ensuring Brio doesn't feel like an exclusive space.

In addition to a full espresso bar menu, Brio has an abundance of coffee bags available for retail with some of the coolest packaging around. For a dorm-friendly option, you can purchase cans of

nitro flash-chilled iced coffee to bring back to campus.

If you can't make the drive to Burlington but would still like to try the coffee, Brio espresso is served right in Middlebury at Haymaker Bun Co.

Olivia's recommendation: cold brew with a splash of milk if ordering in the cafe, or the flash chilled Costa Rica cold brew can to go



OLIVIA MUELLER/THE MIDDLEBURY CAMPUS

Brio Coffeeworks (left), Bristol Cliffs Cafe (center) and Vergennes Laundry (right) top our list of area coffee shops.

Under new ownership, Vt. Coffee Company remains committed to community-minded goals

By RACHEL LU
Staff Writer

Since Vermont Coffee Company, supplier of coffee to the college, was sold to Maine-based specialty foods producer Stonewall Kitchen last spring, the company has been able to accelerate its growth while maintaining commitments to social causes and sustainability.

Mike Brown, general manager at Vermont Coffee Company, told The Campus that Stonewall Kitchen has acted as a partner in taking the company into its next phase by expanding its retail footprint.

Prior to joining Stonewall Kitchen, Vermont Coffee Company exclusively supplied whole bean coffee. Last year, Vermont Coffee Company was in the process of launching a new line of ground coffee, and Stonewall Kitchen embraced the idea and expedited the launch process.

"They've helped us make connections with retailers and tap into distribution channels, and [are]

also helping us invest in manufacturing capabilities that help accelerate our original idea," Brown said.

Vermont Coffee Company is now selling eight types of ground coffee.

Even while undergoing accelerated growth and expansion of products, Stonewall Kitchen is focused on maintaining Vermont Coffee Company's commitment to social justice and the environment. Vermont Coffee Company's products have remained 100% organic and are produced by roasteries that use 100% renewable gas, according to Brown.

Vermont Coffee Company has also maintained its social justice outreach promises through its Friend Philosophy, which has been a value-anchor that differentiates the brand from the larger company at Stonewall Kitchen. For example, Vermont Coffee Company continues to give back to the local community and farmers at coffee origins, focusing specifically on food security initiatives.

These commitments are further demonstrated through the intro-

duction of products that give back to the community.

Since Vermont Coffee Company, supplier of coffee to the college, was sold to Maine-based specialty foods producer Stonewall Kitchen last spring, the company has been able to accelerate its growth while maintaining commitments to social causes and sustainability.

duction of products that give back to the community.

"We just launched a new blend of coffee called Friend Blend in 15 pound whole bean bags. The purpose of that is to really strengthen our commitment of giving back, so 5% of the sales of that product will continue our community support," Brown said.

While making the transition to Stonewall Kitchen, the founder of Vermont Coffee Company, Paul Ralston, was hopeful that this partnership would benefit the Middlebury community. Brown emphasized that this is a priority to Stonewall Kitchen; however, they are still evaluating the impact of the Covid-19 pandemic on the local community, in hopes of figuring out the best support plan moving forward.

The Vermont Coffee Company café in downtown Middlebury has been closed since the pandemic with no plans for reopening soon. However, Ralston has taken it on as a personal project, and he is currently talking to Stonewall about this possibility.

These commitments are further demonstrated through the introduction of products that give back to the community.

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Students need to know how much risk they’re assuming

Two weeks ago, we editorialized on the importance of testing as a means to mitigate community spread. Now, Middlebury is offering opt-in asymptomatic testing on Mondays. However, many questions and contradictions remain regarding Covid-19 risk and safety protocols on campus.

As a board, we are again asking for more transparent channels of communication and clearly stated guidelines. Our semester depends on it.

We, as students, feel as if we’re being kept in the dark. We’re being asked to navigate a situation in which we know that risk is present, but we don’t know where or how much. It doesn’t seem as if the administration wants us to know how prevalent Covid-19 is on campus, even if this awareness would lead us to make more risk-averse decisions.

Though the college does have some sense of the prevalence of Covid-19 on campus through sporadic testing, students aren’t being notified of cases on campus until days later. The Covid-19 reporting dashboard is only updated on Mondays, even though individual students are notified about their test results several days prior. This seems like an arbitrary, and ultimately unsafe,

decision to withhold information about positive cases in our community — especially given that the current timeline for releasing information means students may go into the weekend without an accurate case count.

Even if we disregard how delays in updating the dashboard may make the case count outdated, the number of active cases right now — idling around four — is only representative of the cases found in the distinct fraction of the student body who have been tested, meaning that many cases may go unidentified in students that aren’t being tested.

An email sent out by the SGA quoting CDC guidelines notes that testing is recommended for high-exposure activities such as “attending large social or mass gatherings, or spending time in crowded or poorly-ventilated indoor settings.”

Spoiler alert: if you’ve eaten lunch in a dining hall, this includes you.

And we are not only unsure of the number of cases on campus — we also don’t know what the college’s plans to do if there is an outbreak.

In addition, this week was the first time many of us had heard of contact tracing efforts being un-

dertaken this semester, and it remains unclear to what constitutes an exposure, or what students are expected to do if notified. Should they still go to the dining halls? Attend in-person classes?

Some official contact tracing alerts also seemed to occur days after students were already aware of a proximate case, leading them to seek testing in town far before they were required to do so on campus. One of our editors noted that she was contact-traced via one of her classes, but her professor was not notified.

Though CDC guidelines state that vaccinated individuals do not have to isolate, we also must acknowledge that those guidelines are not necessarily targeted toward a residential campus. (And if any CDC official were to step foot in Atwater on a Saturday night, they would likely rethink their regulations.)

In essence, we want to be safe. But again, we’re not sure how to do that — what constitutes concern is still incredibly unclear. We’re told to cautiously travel off campus though we know hoards of parents from all over — whose vaccine status is currently assessed based on the honor system — will arrive on campus next weekend. And as fall break looms, students

editorial

The editorial represents the opinion of the Middlebury Campus editorial board.

are unsure if they should just stay put over the four-day weekend to limit potential exposure; however, without transparency regarding Covid-19 testing, students don’t even know how safe it is to be on campus at the moment.

We’re unsure if we’re supposed to skip class and quarantine if we have a dull headache or the sniffles, and if we do decide to isolate, there’s no guarantee that professors will accommodate our absences.

The cases identified on campus thus far demonstrate that vaccines cannot be our only safeguard. Keeping each other safe means knowing what safety levels actually look like on campus day to day. Middlebury students are ready to hold up our end of the bargain — but we can only do so if we know the costs.

What happened to protecting the most vulnerable?

op-ed

Abigail Chang is a managing editor for The Campus and a member of the class of 2023. Anna Metzler is a member of the class of 2023.5.

Things are finally starting to feel normal again here at Middlebury. Proc is bustling, classrooms are full and Atwater residents are throwing ragers again. And with nearly 99% of on-campus students fully vaccinated, the days of universal twice-weekly testing, outdoor masking and close contacts have been relegated to the past — at least for now.

But for some, Middlebury’s high vaccination rate isn’t enough. For immunocompromised students, students with autoimmune disorders, for anyone who is at higher risk of contracting Covid-19, the rapid return to pre-pandemic times is not just a respite from strict policies. It’s also cause for anxiety.

Look. We’re not saying we want to return to the way things were last year, no one does. What we’re hoping is that the college will meet us somewhere in the middle — to make it possible for immunocompromised students and other high risk individuals to make informed decisions about their health.

And while we can’t speak for all members of the Middlebury community who are at higher risk of contracting Covid-19 or becoming severely ill, we wanted to share what’s been on our minds for the past few weeks.

We know the vaccine is effective. Even though there have been breakthrough cases, these have nearly all led to mild illness.

But we also know that for some people — including immunocompromised individuals — the vaccine is not as effective.

And we know there are people with autoimmune disorders or who are otherwise at higher risk of contracting Covid-19 here at Middlebury. You’re hearing from two of them right now.

So for Middlebury community members who are unsure how effective their one, two or three shots will be against the Delta variant, seeing packed dining halls and teeming classrooms and knowing that there is no campus-wide testing in place is a major cause for concern.

Middlebury admin, we’ll level with you. We’re pretty frustrated with the way high risk populations appear to have been overlooked this semester. It feels like we’re fending for ourselves on a campus where most people think they’re invincible.

Here’s what we propose.

The school is currently testing in-season athletes and unvaccinated students. It’s also offering optional “asymptomatic testing” on Mondays for those who have a known or suspected exposure to someone with Covid-19 or who have engaged in activities that put them at higher risk for contracting the virus.

But limited testing for small portions of Middlebury’s community isn’t enough to keep its most vulnerable members safe — and it’s unacceptable given what the college has said it’s capable of. (Not

to mention, every other NESCAC is regularly testing students as of this writing.)

Midd, you’ve said you have the capacity to set up a regular testing program and that current conditions have not made it necessary. But how will you even know if and when testing becomes necessary considering the absence of campus-wide screening?

Testing should be proactive, not reactive.

And how will your decision not to test all students impact the community members who stand to lose the most?

If Middlebury still deems testing unnecessary, we ask that, at a minimum, the college supports students and is transparent about the presence of Covid-19 on campus.

While many professors have been incredibly understanding about students needing to miss class, some even advocating that anyone feeling even a little sick should take the day off, this has not been universal. We ask that all professors discourage sick students from coming to class until they’ve received a negative test, and provide a Zoom link or other resources to help prevent students from coming into class to avoid missing something important.

We also ask that the college support students who make the choice to quarantine after a known exposure — even though CDC guidance doesn’t require it for those who are vaccinated — by offering a dean’s excuse to students who have to miss class.

The campus Covid-19 reporting dashboard was updated twice-weekly last semester, but it is now updated only once a week.

The dashboard doesn’t seem to

be keeping up with the real case counts, even contradicting other messages sent out by the college. A Sept. 16 email from Dean of Students Derek Doucet said that the college had identified positives — in the plural — since students had arrived, but only one case was displayed on the dashboard at the time.

On the same day, Vermont reported its highest number of positives in a single day since the start of the pandemic.

What we’re asking is for the college to give us more information. Regularly update the Covid-19 case dashboard — even if there really are no new positives on a given day. Give us updates on all cases in the on-campus college community. Let us know if there are contacts in quarantine.

We need this information because, even though our peers may not need to worry about getting severely ill if they contract Covid-19, not everyone can assume the same. We need this information so we can make our own decisions about what we need to do to stay safe — whether that’s double masking, avoiding crowded dining halls or seeking more regular testing off campus.

As much time as we’ve put into thinking about and writing this op-ed, what we really hope is that it will be obsolete by the time it’s printed.

We know we’re not the only ones feeling overlooked by current Covid-19 measures. Recently, we’ve seen posters around campus calling for additional prevention efforts.

We all want to get back to normal. But normal shouldn’t come at the expense of the students who have the worst prognosis.

The Middlebury Romantic asks: What is love?

column

Edyth Moldow ’23 is a columnist for The Campus.

Ralph Waldo Emerson’s view of love is this: “Human beings are like globes, which can touch only in a point, and, whilst they remain in contact, all other points of each of the spheres are inert.”

While he is a controversial figure (for good reason, might I add), this transcendentalist literary guru had a unique perspective on love between two people. Connection is signified by two separate wholes that merely meet at one point on the spheres which represent their lives. Whether romantic or platonic, the connection implies that neither person completes the other, rather, each person supports the other so that their lives adapt and grow in unexpected ways with time.

On Middlebury’s campus, I propose that we are all spheres: complex creatures with detailed interests, weaving and intersecting with the other spheres around us. Our lives become complete wholes when we nourish aspects of our identities and connect meaningfully with one

another. Whether we are loving our hallmates, our class material, our extracurricular clubs, our sports, or our romantic SOs, we don’t need that one aspect of our life to make us “whole” again; the comprehensive whole lies in the process of cultivating a connection, the one point on our sphere.

There are a lot of types of love floating around our school: “Love at first sight,” platonic love, “the first love,” maybe even “true love.” Perhaps we have skirted around the very idea of “I love you” for fear of getting too close, for burning ourselves in the heat of romantic seriousness and the prickly fear of commitment in our chests. I have both been afraid to say those three words, and also lived by the phrase “caution belongs to the wind.”

I wasn’t really ready to have a relationship until this year because I used to look at love as a way to complete myself, incapable of seeing my worth on my own. I didn’t understand that love must be about prioritizing loving yourself first.

To be honest, my romantic history has had some questionable characters: people who didn’t put in effort, failed to communicate, or hid how they really felt about me for fear of hurting my feelings. Have I been left on “read” for two months before? Absolutely. I’ve also gotten

my hopes up only to have the person leave the date thirty minutes in, pushing his chair back exclaiming “I’m finished with dinner” after I admitted I didn’t like a certain Taylor Swift album. I’ve had a date become a “group hang” because my date had internally friendzoned me and was afraid to tell me. But we should not be settling for experiences like these. From now on, no more long wait times, hidden feelings, or lack of effort.

In my current relationship, we give each other the time and space to talk about what we care about in life, whether that’s as silly as Legos or something as serious as social justice issues. If one of us knows we need to do something for our own happiness, we’ll make that a priority too. Loving someone is wanting the “whole” that is their life to be complete — even the aspects that don’t directly relate to you.

Love is doing everything you can to help someone by adding patches of light into their day. That could be bringing them coffee, writing a sweet note, helping them fold their laundry, or even just listening to them when they need it. Love takes shape in thoughtful action, especially toward yourself. After all, showing love to yourself helps you best extend that love to other people.

“I love you.”

Everyone says it at different times: sometimes it’s never, sometimes it’s two weeks in (as was the case of my first boyfriend), four months or six, but really, you should say it when you feel it.

My friends are good examples of complete wholes finding points of connections among our group and on their own romantically. Here’s what they think love is:

Love is feeling at home: whether that’s a place or with people, you feel like you can be your true self without having to worry about how you’re perceived

Love is cherishing every moment you can with someone

Love is a feeling of uncontained happiness in someone’s presence

Love is overcoming our fear that we aren’t worthy of connection

Love is helping other people get what they want in life

But if I know one thing, it’s that love isn’t an obligation. It’s not something you owe to someone. It’s not something you can always hold onto. It’s something that terrifies us, and lifts us from our own depths, excites us, and inspires us into growing into ourselves in the world. Love is the glue for everything.

“I love you.”

“Really? I love you too. I’ve known for a while now. I love you...”

“So much.”



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The Middlebury Campus

On Michael K. Williams and “The Wire”

By JOHN VAALER
Staff Writer

Actor Michael K. Williams passed away earlier this month after a long battle with drug addiction. He was 54.

Williams played bootlegger Chalky White in the show “Boardwalk Empire.” His performance over five seasons remained steady, menacing and reliable — even when the show was sometimes anything but. He also posthumously received an Emmy nomination in September for his role in

“Lovecraft Country.”

But a certain character will always showcase Williams’ legacy: Omar Little.

Omar Little from “The Wire” — the shotgun-wielding, openly gay thief with a moral code wears an air of complete nonchalance and security as he robs dope dealers, terrorizing the local gangs of Baltimore. “Citizens” uninvolved with the drug trade are safe from his wrath. Omar walks his grandmother to church on Sundays. He enjoys Honey Nut Cheerios. He commits a homicide every now and then.

In a show full of rich characters on both sides of the law, Omar

was the most compelling of the bunch thanks to Williams’ elegantly matter-of-fact performance. He paired the character’s understatement with flashes of exuberance and dark humor during the show’s more violent scenes. When Omar whistles “Farmer in the Dell” with a poker-face as he approaches his victims, Williams lets the music do all of the talking as the dealers run. It is as if Omar is just on an afternoon stroll through the park, and not about to commit a handful of felonies.

“(Omar’s) gayness and his sexuality do not define him,” said Film and Media Culture Professor Jason Mittell, author of “Complex TV:

The Poetics of Contemporary Television Storytelling.”

“He is the kind of character we have never seen on television before [...]. And you add on to that the striking charisma Michael K. Williams brought to the part. It’s just something about his performance that pops.”

But Williams’ performance as Omar was legendary for a reason beyond his charisma. You get the feeling that Williams did not take himself seriously, even as he gave a serious, beautiful performance. Williams understood that “The Wire” was always meant to both entertain and make you think.

“The Wire” started out as a more-than-usually thoughtful series about the moral ambiguity of the War on Drugs in Baltimore. But a cop show was pretty much all it was. We first see Baltimore through the eyes of alcoholic detective Jimmy McNulty (Dominic West) and foul-mouthed Bunk Moreland (Wendell Pierce), who assemble a team of flawed but mostly well-meaning police officers bent on pursuing drug-related homicides instead of street-dealing. Soon enough, though, their investigation leads them to the highest levers of power in the city, with drug money flowing from crooked state senators to street-level dealers all the way to local businesses.

After its first run of episodes, the show expanded to chronicle several parts of Baltimore society. Its second season switches its focus to the Polish-American dock workers who, mostly unwittingly, help import narcotics into the city. The third and fourth look at the public institutions that worsen the problems of drug abuse and violent crime in Baltimore, especially condemning the disinterested attitudes of the city’s public schools and city council towards winning the War on Drugs in a creative way.

Some potential viewers are intimidated when reading about the intricate economic, political and social dynamics displayed in “The Wire.” They may turn away in a similar manner to Virginia Woolf

when she reacted to Joyce’s “Ulysses” — feeling “puzzled, bored, irritated and disillusioned by a queasy undergraduate scratching his pimples.”

But balanced with the show’s towering yet accessible intelligence is the other side of “The Wire”: the wittier, pulpier thread of the show which Williams’ portrayal of Omar best embodied.

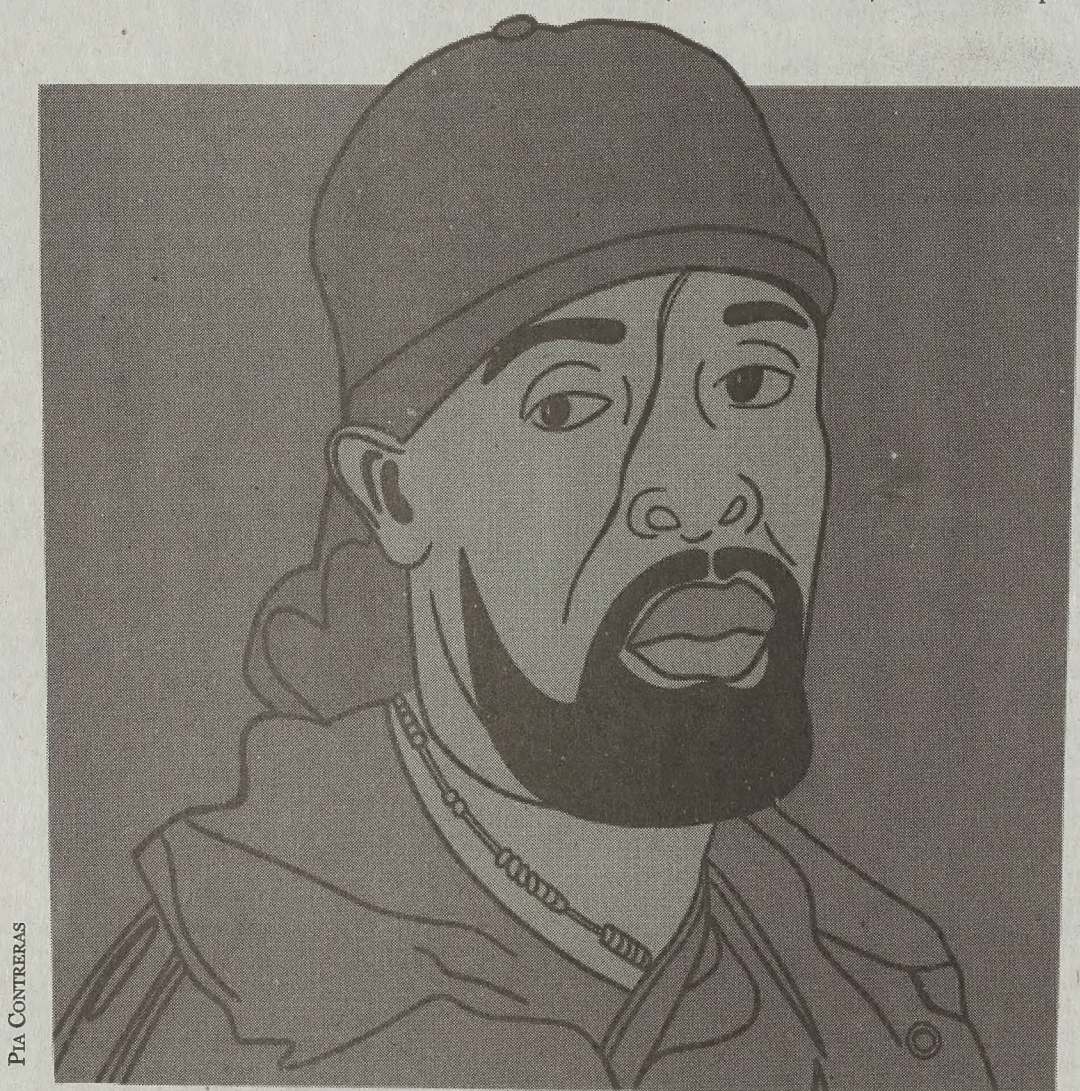
There are other great figures in the show who, similar to Omar, seem like something out of a Raymond Chandler dime novel instead of real life. Take Stringer Bell (Idris Elba), a ruthless crime boss who reads “The Wealth of Nations” after night classes at a community college. Or there’s Brother Mouzone, a bow-tied assassin played by Michael Potts, who shoots a character named Cheese (Method Man) in the arm and then cries to the fleeing man “Good day to you, sir.”

But none of these performers could outshine Williams. In their investigation, McNulty and Bunk eventually ask Omar to go undercover for them in exchange for clemency. Omar adheres gladly, as one of the drug dealers being investigated murdered his lover, Brandon (Michael Kevin Darnall). As Omar testifies in court, he rebukes an attorney who claims the witness is a parasite festering on drug violence. “So are you, man,” Omar fires back. “I got the shotgun, you got the briefcase.”

Williams plays this scene both large and small. His words spark laughs in the courthouse, and his hands fidget with the tie Omar dons on top of his otherwise informal wear. But his eyes are deadly sincere, almost feigning confusion with his interrogator’s hypocrisy.

The late actor performed his signature role with the same qualities that made Omar such a compelling figure in the story. His acting style was dignified, warm, blithe, layered — and without even a trace of self-seriousness.

Editor’s Note: Jason Mittell is the Faculty Advisor to The Campus.



Chinese and Luso-Hispanic Studies Bring “Shang-Chi” to Middlebury

By NINA NG
Staff Writer

As the Marvel Cinematic Universe (MCU) ushers in a new generation of superheroes, “Shang-Chi and the Legend of the Ten Rings” offers a unique story entrenched in martial arts and Chinese culture. Just after the film’s theatrical release, the Chinese and Luso-Hispanic Studies departments, together with Asian cultural groups on campus, organized a screening and subsequent discussion panel for the film.

Pim Singhataraj ’21.5 was one of the organizers of the events, and they saw the panel as a space for professors and students alike to discuss the movie in a casual setting. “It was super wonderful to be in a room full of people who look like me and [talk] about a movie that had a cast full of people who looked like us. It felt like an empowering experience,” they said.

“It was a feeling of awe and nostalgia for something I lacked when I was a kid: Asian-Americans being unapologetically themselves,” said Max Walters ’24, another panelist and organizer.

Following the first Marvel superhero of Chinese descent, “Shang-Chi and the Legend of the Ten Rings” depicts the origins of its eponymous character, Shang-Chi (Simu Liu), as he navigates family tensions and the burden of heroism thrust upon him. Working as parking valets in San Francisco, Shang-Chi and his friend Katy (Awkwafina) encounter a series of unexpected adventures, leading them to eventually defend Ta Lo, the village of Shang-Chi’s mother, Ying Li, from “soul-suckers” set to consume their spirit guardian.

The film’s settings boast a combi-

nation of urban and naturalist scenery for viewers to explore. The majority of the movie is spent in Ta Lo, a hidden, fantastical village inspired by Chinese lore, drawing both praise and critique from the panelists. Although some consider it clever to avoid politicization, others felt that it repeats the age-old orientalist trope that the East is unchanging. The variation of Chinese-inspired elements also sparked a debate of who the intended audience is: some viewers found it difficult to pick up some cultural cues and hidden jokes considering the extensive use of Mandarin throughout conversations within the film.

The casting of Shang-Chi came as a surprise to some. Prior to starring as Shang-Chi, Liu was primarily known for his role in the TV show “Kim’s Convenience” and, before that, even worked as a stock photo model. Together with a cast of veteran actors and recent debuts, “Shang-Chi and the Legend of the Ten Rings” set the stage for an impressive artistic turn-out.

The screening event held at the Marquis theater in town saw an excited crowd gather along the nearby street in anticipation. Asian American and Pacific Islander (AAPI) students were given priority for limited space at the screening.

“I wanted a screening where most of the audience was part of the community,” said event organizer Professor of Luso-Hispanic Studies Enrique Garcia. “It’s not that I’m homogenizing the [AAPI] group — I also [wanted to] see what the reactions of different Asians were for the panel, too.”

Both AAPI and non-AAPI alike found solace in collectively appreciating a landmark film for representation.

Especially today, for Asian-identifying individuals, the issue of representation within film can be a difficult

one. As such, however robust the array of Asian actors present in the film, “Shang-Chi and the Legend of the Ten Rings” cannot individually shoulder the flaws within the greater MCU.

For one, Asian representation extends beyond East Asia. Amina Matavia ’23 shared her experience as a Southeast Asian watching the movie during the panel discussion. “I wish there was a wider variety of stories from all around Asia that’s represented in mainstream Western media because the Asian experience is not a monolith, even though it’s often treated like that [in the United States].”

For another, one-time representation does not rewrite decades of yellow peril or undo racist tropes seen in Shang-Chi’s preceding comics. Indeed, the film slightly touches on anti-Asian hate, with Wen Wu (Tony Leung), Shang-Chi’s father and bearer of the ten rings, merely jesting about “The Mandarin”, a supposed terrorist. In this way, the film is both alluding to Wu’s original Marvel comic book character, Fu Manchu, and compensating for Marvel’s problematic past with “The Mandarin.” Considering the redemption of his past depiction’s racist caricature played by Ben Kingsley, students and faculty at the panel alike found issue with said aspects of the film, deeming its efforts lukewarm.

In “Shang-Chi and the Legend of the Ten Rings,” Kingsley reprised his role as Trevor Slattery, an actor, now being kept in the prison of Wen Wu. With the ability to speak with a mythical creature from Ta Lo, Slattery and the creature play a key role in the plot. Kingsley previously acted as Slattery in “Iron Man 3,” pretending to be “The Mandarin.” As expected, the fact that the masquerade was played by a white man didn’t sit well



COURTESY PHOTO

with some audiences. With that being said, considering the prominent political underpinnings of “Shang-Chi and the Legend of the Ten Rings,” the film may have been merely working with the hand it was dealt.

When brought into a greater context, the film may seem like any other MCU film, but “Shang-Chi and the Legend of the Ten Rings” stands as an important release in and of itself. As

popular cinema takes more steps towards diverse storytelling, so should viewers’ expectations of the efforts from such large film studios.

Arts & Culture Editor Rain Ji ’23 contributed reporting to this article.

WRMC Radio Roundup: WHISTLE WHILE YOU WORK

By THE WRMC
EXECUTIVE BOARD

General Manager’s Pick — Maddie Van Beek ’22.5

Album: “Ice Melt” — Crumb
Genre: Neo-Psychedelia Dream Pop

RIYL: Men I Trust, Puma Blue, Yellow Days, Foxygen

Blurb: Fresh off the heels of their newest indie pop psych rock album, the Brooklyn quartet, Crumb, is making the trek up to Middlebury, Vermont this Friday, October 1. Spend this week memorizing the words to every song so you can sing your heart out at our first live concert of the year!

Co-Concerts Manager’s Pick — Yarden Carmi ’23

Album: “Sable (Video Game Soundtrack)” — Japanese Breakfast

Genre: Instrumental, Ambient
RIYL: Hans Zimmer, Vangelis, Sufjan Stevens

Blurb: Japanese Breakfast has been putting out a ridiculous amount of great music lately and her latest project, a soundtrack for an indie video game, is no exception. “Sable” is soft and relaxing. Its mostly wordless retro vibe is perfect for the late night homework grind.

Co-Concerts Manager’s Pick — Luke Robins ’23

Album: “Psy From The Psycho World!” — PSY

Genre: Hip-Hop

RIYL: Outkast, Digable Planets, Seo Taiji and the Boys

Blurb: If you only know PSY from “PSY Gangnam Style,” I promise there’s more. “Psy from The Psycho World!” will have you bouncing through campus with its classic SoCal and disco inspired beats.

Business Manager’s Pick — Jacob Raymond ’23

Album: “SINNER GET READY” — Lingua Ignota

Genre: Avant-garde, orchestral, metal, Appalachian acoustic

RIYL: The Body, Daughters, Liturgy

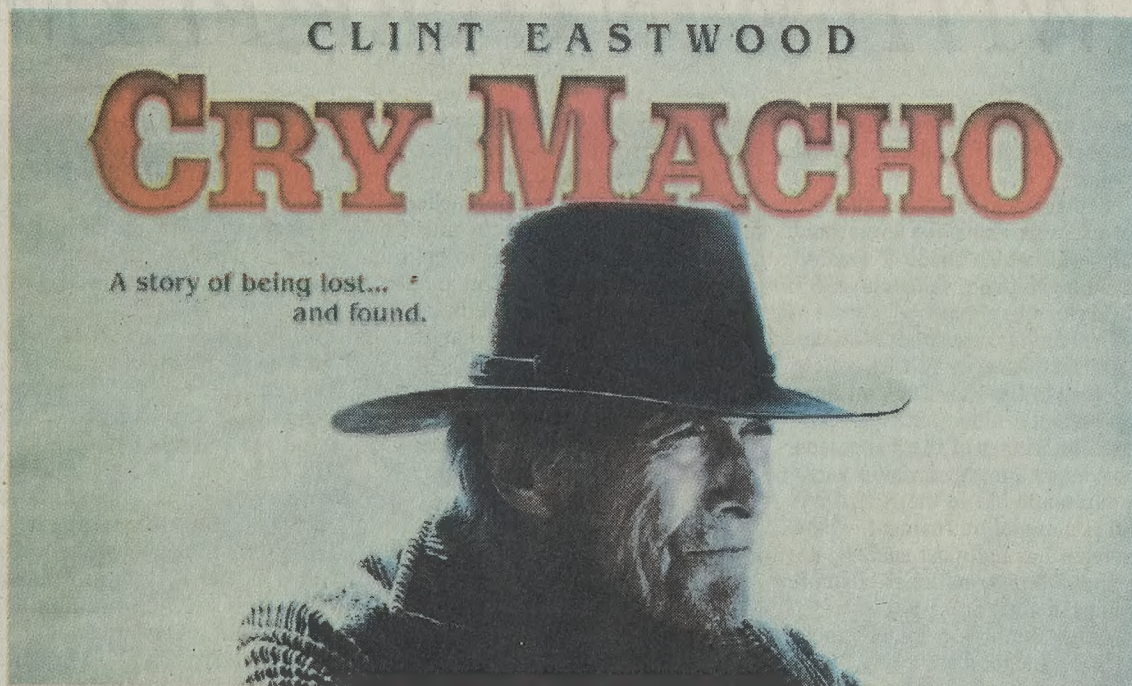
Blurb: Lingua Ignota’s third album, “SINNER GET READY,” is one of the most dense, horrifying, engrossing and beautiful albums I have ever heard. The album attempts to grapple with the zealotry of the Christian faith in Appalachia by taking the listener on a journey through both gorgeous hymnal singing and chilling screams backed by a gigantic classical composition that feels trapped between some kind of blissful heaven and hellish pur-

REEL CRITIC: "CRY MACHO"

By JACK TORPEY
Contributing Writer

"Cry Macho" opens on a truck driving down a country road. Inside, we see squinted eyes under a beaten cowboy hat glance into the rearview mirror. The truck pulls to a stop, and the camera drops to the ground to watch as two leather boots step out onto the pavement. It then cuts to the driver-side door shutting, and then we see him: Clint Eastwood, the sun at his back, still the archetypical American Western hero at 91 years of age that he was 60 years ago.

It is clear in just the first two minutes of the film that director and star Clint Eastwood understands the baggage that he carries with him into this role. Making his first appearance in a Western since his 1993 Best Picture Winner "Unforgiven," he knows that his donning of a cowboy hat is all that audiences need to feel the years of rich cinematic history packed into this film. Eastwood plays with this connection between the audience and the icon, as silhouettes of his character Mike Milo against the sun setting over the desert erase his age. He could just as easily be the Man with No Name from Sergio Leone's "The Good, the Bad, and the Ugly." Herein lies one of the joys of "Cry Macho." Though it is a film held back by a screenplay that is uneven in its storytelling and blunt in its dialogue, it is redeemed by an endearing Eastwood performance, the beautiful desert scenery and some of the



COURTESY PHOTO

sweetest moments in the director's filmography.

Mike Milo is a former rodeo star living out the last years of his life alone following the death of his wife and son in a car accident. In return for the financial support he lent Mike following the loss of his family, Mike's boss Howard (Dwight Yoakam) comes to him asking for a favor: travel from Texas to Mexico to retrieve Howard's son from his affluent, alcoholic mother. Mike accepts, and after finding the boy in Mexico City, sets off on the road back to Texas. He is all too quickly pursued by Mexican federal police and private enforcers, both sent by the mother to take back her

son.

Despite what its plot may imply, "Cry Macho" is anything but a thriller. Much like its white-haired star, the film is gentle, methodical and earnest, which works brilliantly in some regards but fails in others. This earnestness shows up as a problem in the dialogue, much of the issue stemming from Eduardo Minetti's Rafo. The character's lines are devoid of any subtlety and delivered with binary emotions. Rafo is either one hundred percent happy or one hundred percent sad, never a realistic, complex mix. His spoken words — he at one point says to Mike, "I don't trust you anymore" — are borderline cringeworthy.

It is a great relief that Eastwood is not tainted by this problem. His portrayal of Mike is natural, filled with moments of sly humor, wisdom and a warm sensitivity that is miles away from the steely intensity of his William Munny in "Unforgiven." Mike chokes up, recalling his deceased family, and as he lies down in the dark, his hat pulled down over his eyes, all we can see is a single tear rolling down his cheek. These quiet, human moments are what make "Cry Macho" tick, and they are never more bountiful than when Mike and Rafo spend time with a widow named Marta (Natalia Traven) and her family.

Mostly set in the restaurant Marta runs in a small Mexican town, this extended sequence finds the film forgetting about its plot momentarily to settle down and simply breathe with the characters. They eat meals together, they dance, they tend to sick animals and they laugh. It plays like a dream, and the rest of the narrative fades into the periphery. Not only is watching Mike and Rafo form a familial bond with Marta and her granddaughters the highlight of the film, but it is also possibly the most heartwarming sequence that Eastwood has ever shot.

The flimsiness of the screenplay doesn't allow the film to maintain this emotional power once Mike and Rafo are forced to leave their new home behind. What is supposed to be the final confrontation between Mike and one of the men hunting him lasts no more than two minutes and is extremely anticlimactic. Then, in the most disappointing part of the film, the plot runs its course to reach an expected conclusion without the characters pushing the drama into new territory. Is this an intentional effort by screenwriter Nick Schenk to subvert audience expectations by ending the film and giving them an ending that is almost too obvious? Or is it simply a boring ending?

Thinking back, it doesn't matter either way. The film was genuinely moving, and audiences got to see one of their favorite Hollywood stars step gracefully back into the role that he defined. You can't ask for anything more than that.

DON'T MISS THIS

Hirschfield International Film Series: "Transition" Q&A with Director Sas Carey

The Hirschfield International Film Series presents director Sas Carey's 2020 film shot in Mongolia. Khongoroo, a 27-year-old medical doctor, grapples with what it means to remain in Mongolia's capital Ulaanbaatar. She misses the beautiful but remote East Taiga, where two dozen families and relatives live in a tight-knit Dukha reindeer-herding community. Ulaanbaatar, a city of 1.5 million, offers her a job when the countryside does not. With

work in the city, Khongoroo must decide whether to risk the health of her three-year-old daughter in the polluted capital, or leave her with her grandmother where the air is clean. Q&A with Director Sas Carey following each in-person screening.

Saturday, Oct. 2 at 3 p.m. and 8 p.m. at Axinn 232 and online. Free.

26th Annual First Year Show

The 26th Annual First Year Show will feature selected works from Pulitzer Prize winner Suzan-Lori

Parks's "365 Days/365 Plays." Each short play has its own story line, but are connected through similar themes of love, politics and the pursuit of human connection.

Thursday, Oct. 7 and Friday, Oct. 8 at 7:30 p.m. at the Hepburn Zoo. Free.

Art & Protest: Artists as Agents of Social Change

Art & Protest unites examples of socially engaged art — produced primarily in the United States but in a few instances around the world — from the 19th century to

the present. To showcase the artistic and ideological patterns that occur across different eras and social movements the works are grouped around seven aesthetic or conceptual strategies artists use to demonstrate the need for social change: Photography and Photojournalism, Social Commentary and Satire, Appropriation and Circulation, Text as Art, Transgressive Aesthetics, Picturing Difficult Truths, and Presence and Absence. Many works could feature in multiple categories.

Sept. 14 – Dec. 12 at the Mahaney Arts Center, Museum of Art. Free.

FEB AND FLOW: THE EVOLVING DYNAMICS OF FEB CULTURE AT MIDDLEBURY

By CHARLIE KEOHANE
Editor at Large

The Feb class has been a welcome winter addition to campus for the past 50 years, bringing fresh faces and new energy as students head into the spring semester. In recent semesters, however, an increasing number of students are taking time away from school, moving into and out of Feb class years.

Prospective students can indicate on their application if they are interested in being part of the Feb class, allowing them to spend a semester elsewhere before attending the college as a first year. Every February, about 100 students, a mix of students who did or did not indicate that they wanted to enter mid-year, are selected as Febs and arrive on campus after taking a semester off (dubbed a "Febmester").

However, with athletic competition halted, classes online, study abroad complications and general Covid-19 fatigue, students have been taking semesters off in the middle of their college experience to reflect, recharge or work. Increasingly, students are "Febbing" themselves and blurring the lines between Febs and regs.

Tired of online classes, Ella Ro-

elofs '23.5 took the spring 2021 semester off and spent time working on a farm, at a restaurant and doing an internship. But even though she now has a ".5" at the end of her class year, Roelofs still does not think of herself as a Feb.

"I don't really consider myself a Feb because I was not part of the initial Feb class, and I think coming in as a Feb defines the Feb class more," Roelofs said, adding that she refers to herself as a fake junior Feb given that she started as a reg student.

Helen Vaughan '24.5 agreed that coming to the college during the winter and her semester as a first year Feb was crucial in building connections with other Febs.

"There is a pretty strong sense of community you build that first semester," she said.

Though Vaughan did not check the Feb box on her application, she was offered admittance as a Feb. Upon reflection, Vaughan is glad she took time off and worked on a farm in her hometown.

Like Roelofs, Per Alexander's '24.5 decision was influenced by Covid-19. Alexander initially did not indicate a preference for Feb or regular acceptance but was happy to ultimately be admitted as a Feb and welcomed the time off.

Other Febs were specifically drawn to Middlebury for the Feb program, which is one of the largest

and oldest mid-year enrollment programs in the country.

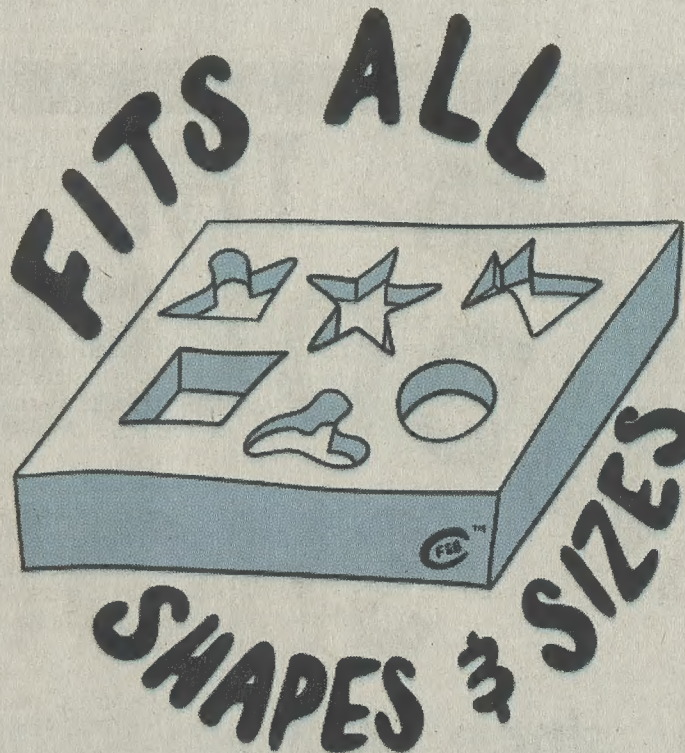
Mary Nagy-Benson '24.5 applied specifically for Feb admission and was really excited to be part of a small cohort of students on campus.

"I really wanted to be a Feb, especially since I'm from this town [of Middlebury], and I wanted to go

somewhere else and have some time off from school," Nagy-Benson said.

She spent her Febmester on a canoe trip in Minnesota and working in the Middlebury area.

There are often stereotypical traits associated with Febs, but with more students taking time off, that image is changing.



PIA CONTRERAS

"I feel like the Feb stereotype is that you're very outdoorsy and crunchy, but I feel like in reality — meeting people who are Febs — it's like a really wide variety," Vaughan said. "There are people who are Febs who come from all walks of life."

With time passing and more students joining and leaving the Feb class, Febs and regs have become more integrated.

"There's much less of a cookie-cutter Feb right now," Finn Warner '24.5 said. Warner said that in the future, he believes that more students will welcome the time off, and the Feb path might gain more traction.

Alexander added that in his second semester with a new dorm and classes, he has met many more reg students.

"When you come in the middle of the year, everyone is so deeply ingrained in their routines," Alexander said. "I just think that generally as we go on, the idea of a Feb is going to get less and less [concrete] because more people are going to Feb themselves or reg themselves or study abroad."

Despite lots of movement in and out of the class, being a Feb is still a cornerstone of the Middlebury experience for some and remains a unique opportunity for students to take a nontraditional college path.

to our survival, that we can't afford to stand alone because "we make each other who we are."



PIA CONTRERAS

gatory. While listening to this album all the way through is really difficult, and it is not an album I'd recommend listening to on a whim, it is one of the most unforgettable albums I've ever listened to and each track is sure to give you chills.

Library Manager's Pick — Kyle Hooker '24

Album: "June Rich Debut" — June Rich

Genre: Folk Rock

RIYL: Indigo Girls, Melissa Etheridge, The Chicks

Blurb: I was organizing CDs in the station last week and came

across this album from a somewhat obscure artist I had never heard of before. I saw from the label that they are 90's folk rock, a genre that I generally enjoy, and the short review sticker claimed they are similar to the Indigo Girls, a great band. Overall, the album has a nice vibe — beautiful vocals and harmonies from two talented singers — with some nice witty lyrics and plenty of edginess.

Music Director's Pick — Chad Kim '23.5

Album: "The Forgotten Edge" — Molly Lewis

Genre: Tropical, Ethereal

RIYL: Weyes Blood, Sufjan Stevens

Blurb: In a fairly niche genre where the instrument is your mouth (but you don't use your mouth for singing), Molly Lewis is arguably one of the best whistlers of our time. She will lull you into tranquility as this album takes you on a journey through the sounds of the west. A recommended setting to listen to it would either be somewhere high up watching the sunset or in a sauna.

Social Media Director's Pick — Kai Velazquez '23

Album: "The Man Who Sees Tomorrow/ Lodarore" — Uwade

Genre: Acoustic, Indie, Folk

RIYL: Anjimile, Joy Oladokun

Blurb: There are only a few songs that can quiet down the anxious thoughts in my mind, and those are Uwade's tracks. Her vocals are soft and gentle, like an autumn lullaby that people can huddle around to feel its warmth. These songs are dedicated to her father, Dr. James I. Akhere, who passed away last year. Uwade sings to remind us that community love is essential

MEN'S RUGBY OPENS FALL SEASON IN STYLE WITH WIN OVER PLYMOUTH

By JOSH ROSENSTEIN
Staff Writer

Men's rugby opened their 49th season in dominant fashion on Saturday, defeating Plymouth State, 22-0. After a year without competition due to Covid-19, the club showed little rust in their return to action.

Rugby is returning to a somewhat normal season this fall, compared to last year when there were only captains' practices due to Covid-related rules. And after an intense preseason, the team has high expectations for this season.

"Seeing what we can do as a team against real competition is exciting," captain Griffin Shapiro '22 said.

Men's rugby is unique compared to other club sports in that the vast majority of its members are completely new to the sport when they join. While the transition to the sport is often difficult, it allows coaches to teach players the fundamentals of the game, so they learn how to play the right way. It also

creates an open and welcoming atmosphere for any students looking to join.

"Being new to rugby, the coaches and captains explained everything really well which made it easy to learn how to play," said John Hodulik '24.

The Panthers play under National Collegiate Rugby (NCR), where they play in the New England Rugby Football Union (NERFU) division. The winner of the postseason tournament for the division earns an automatic bid to the NCR Division II national tournament, where the team has had past success, including winning national championships in 2007 and 2009.

"Come out. It's a lot of fun to watch, and a good gathering," Shapiro said. "There's always people on the sideline that are happy to talk about it, even if they only know a little bit about the game."

Men's rugby is back in action on Saturday, Oct. 2, in Connecticut against the University of New Haven.

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SHIRLEY MAO/THE MIDDLEBURY CAMPUS



Men's rugby, pictured in navy, returned to action last Saturday.

SHIRLEY MAO/THE MIDDLEBURY CAMPUS

THE MIDDLEBURY SHOP

since 1983 — FORTH  N GOAL

MiddleburyShop.com

68 Main Street Middlebury, Vermont

The advertisement displays several items: a pair of white shorts, a navy blue sweatshirt with 'MIDDLEBURY' on it, a white mug with the Middlebury logo, a navy blue baseball cap with the Middlebury logo, a white and navy blue striped polo shirt, and a light blue hoodie with 'MIDDLEBURY' on it. A male student is also shown wearing the navy blue sweatshirt.

Field hockey extends home win streak to 40

By CHARLES CROUNSE
Contributing Writer

There must be something special about Kohn Field, home of the Middlebury field hockey team, for it is there that the Panthers have won 40 straight games.

This miraculous home win streak dates back to Sept. 27, 2017, when the Panthers bounced back

from a 2-3 loss against Hamilton (one of just two losses of the season) with a 6-2 drubbing of Skidmore. (That year, field hockey would go on to claim its third-ever NCAA championship.)

With a 4-1 win over Babson on Sept. 19, that win streak now stands at 40 games. The team has won many collective and individual accomplishments during this span, including three NESCAC Championships and three NCAA

National Championships. On the individual level, Erin Nicholas '22 has won National Field Hockey Coaches Association (NFHCA) Player of the Year the past two seasons, and Katie George '23 was named NESCAC Rookie of the Year and All American in 2019.

While field hockey's dearth of all-star talent has played a key role in their success, much of the credit is owed to Head Coach Katharine DeLorenzo, who has won NESCAC

Coach of the Year the past three seasons (2017-19). Now in her 21st season of coaching this year, DeLorenzo has amassed a 316-62 record for a win percentage of .836, the highest in program history. Known for her excellent eye for recruits and her attacking style of play, the coach is inextricably connected to the team's success.

Among the team's current, super star-filled roster, Nicholas, Audrey Lazar '23 and George stand

out as the top scorers, while Charlotte Marks '23 and Joan Vera '22 have anchored the defense in front of Grace Harlan '22.5 in goal. With a well-balanced and talented roster, only time will tell how far the Panthers can stretch their home win streak.

Field hockey (8-0) returns to Kohn Field on Sunday, Oct. 3, when they play host to Amherst College (7-0). Game time is scheduled for 1:00 p.m.



Field hockey practices on Kohn Field on Monday, Sept. 27.



CHARLIE DEICHMAN-CASWELL/THE MIDDLEBURY CAMPUS

Seven questions for Jack Pistorious '21.5, men's football

By JENNY LANGERMAN
Staff Writer

Jack Pistorious '21.5 is a senior on the men's football team from Park Ridge, Illinois. In this installment of "seven questions," Pistorious recalls how he ended up at Middlebury, his favorite memory to-date with the football team and what he would tell his freshman self.

JL: Why did you choose to play at Middlebury?

JP: Middlebury was the first school to contact me in the recruiting process, and the coaches maintained a great relationship with me. I also had a friend who was two years older than me who was already a Middlebury football player and [he] really convinced me to come. Once I came on a visit and saw the view from the stadium, I was sold.

JL: What is one of your favorite memories from your time on the Middlebury football team?

JP: Beating Tufts to cap off the 2019 season with a perfect 9-0 record. It was the first game my dad was able to see me play in college, so that made it extra special for me.

JL: What are you most proud of during your Middlebury football career?

JP: Being a mentor and role model for the younger guys on the team to help them have the best experience possible.

JL: If you could describe your experience in three words, what would they be?

JP: Fun. Competitive. Family.

JL: How (if at all) do you think COVID impacted the team's season thus far?

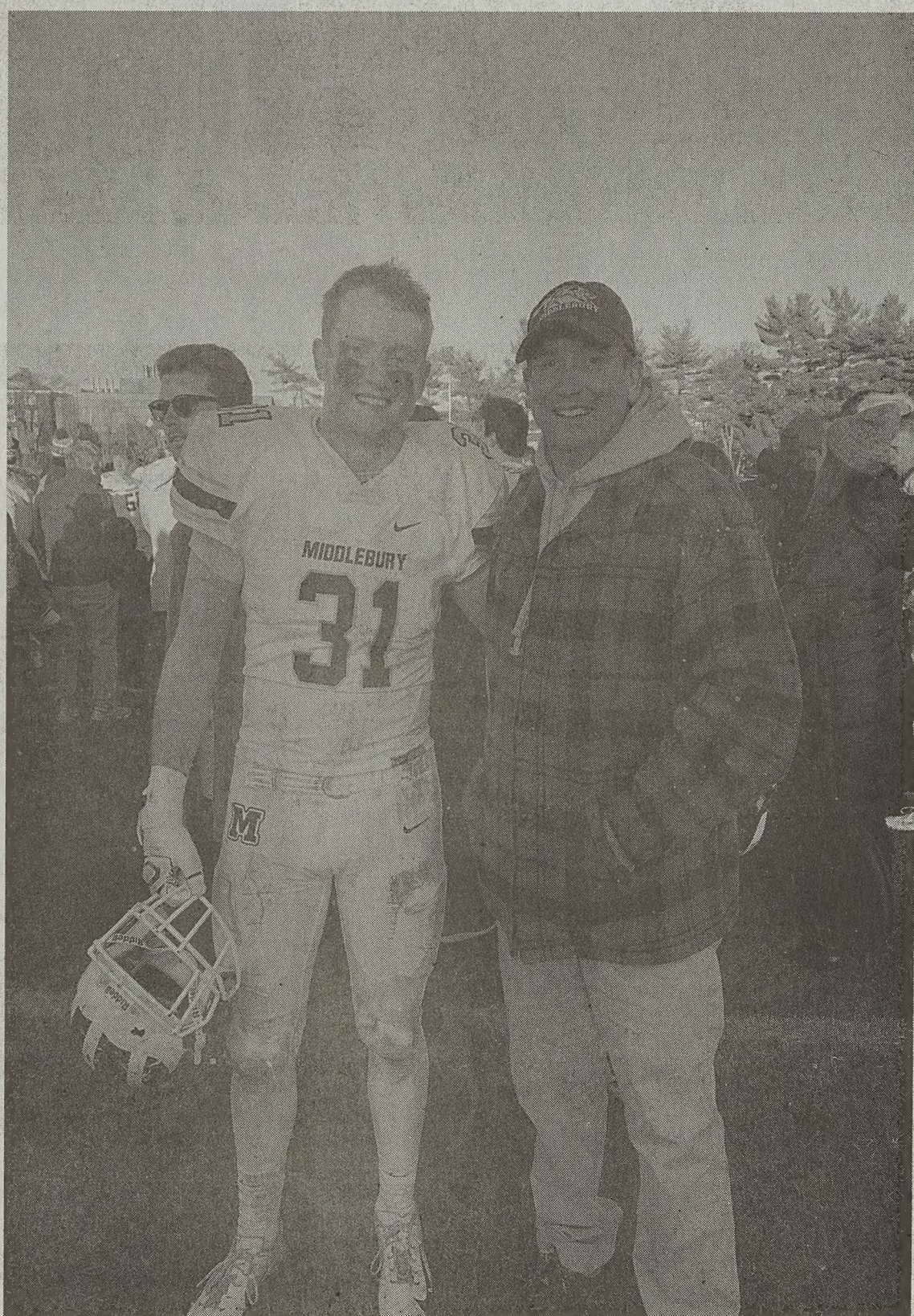
JP: Covid-19 has made the 2021 season unique in many ways. Because many guys, including myself, took some time off to be able to return for our final season, the team is much larger than it has ever been. As a result, we have had to split the team into a travel squad of 75, so the ~30 other players cannot travel with the team to games. Additionally, the NESCAC rules regarding Covid-19 state that if an athlete tests positive the week of a game, they cannot play that week, so there has been a heightened sense of anxiety because of the consequences of testing positive. However, the most notable difference is far and away the absence of the chocolate milk machine in our locker room.

JL: If you could tell your freshman-year self anything, what would it be?

JP: As my college career is winding down, the one thing I would tell my freshman self is to enjoy all the little things that make up the Middlebury experience. In football, we have a saying: "Have to, Want to, Get to," which pertains to things that might not be that exciting or fun, [but] the sooner you can adopt the mindset that you "get to" do something, the better off you will be. Whether it's getting dinner at Ross or walking down to the library on a nice fall evening, if you live with the notion that you get to do everything, you will get so much out of every day.

JL: What is one word that describes your playing style?

JP: Spider.



COURTESY OF JACK PISTORIOUS

Jack Pistorious (#31), captain of the men's football team, was the 2019 NESCAC Defensive Player of the Year.



SHIRLEY MAO/THE MIDDLEBURY CAMPUS

The men's rugby team plays under National Collegiate Rugby (NCR), where the winner of the postseason tournament for the division earns an automatic bid to the NCR Division II national tournament.